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TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

JOHN LORD SOMMERS,

BARON OF EVESHAM.

MY LORD,

I Should not act the part of an impartial Spectator, if I dedicated the following Papers to one who is not of the moſt conſummate and moſt acknowledged merit.

None but a perſon of a finiſhed character, can be the proper patron of a work, which endeavours to cultivate and poliſh human life, by promoting virtue and knowledge, and by recommending whatſoever may be either uſeful or ornamental to ſociety.

I know that the homage I now pay you, is offering a kind of violence to one who is as ſolicitous to ſhun applauſe, as he is aſſiduous to deſerve it. But, my Lord, this is perhaps the only particular, in which your prudence will be always diſappointed.

While juſtice, candour, equanimity, a zeal for the good of your country, and the moſt perſuaſive eloquence in bringing over others to it, are valuable diſtinctions, You are not to expect that the public will ſo far comply with your inclinations, as to forbear celebrating ſuch extraordinary qualities. It is in vain that you have endeavoured to conceal your ſhare of merit, in the many national ſervices which you have effected. Do what you will, the preſent age will be talking of your virtues, though poſterity alone will do them juſtice.

Other men paſs through oppoſitions and contending intereſts in the ways of ambition; but your great abilities have been invited to power, and importuned to accept of advancement. Nor is it ſtrange that this ſhould happen to your Lordſhip, who could bring into the ſervice of your Sovereign the arts and policies of ancient Greece and Rome, as well as the moſt exact knowledge of our own conſtitution in particular, and of the intereſts of Europe in general; to which I muſt alſo add, a certain dignity in yourſelf, that, to ſay the leaſt of it, has been always equal to thoſe great honours which have been conferred upon you.

It is very well known, how much the Church owed to you in the moſt dangerous day it ever ſaw, that of the arraignment of it's prelates; and how far the civil power, in the late and preſent reign, has been indebted to your counſels and wiſdom.

But to enumerate the great advantages which the public has received from your adminiſtration, would be a more proper work for an hiſtory than for an addreſs of this nature.

Your

Your Lordſhip appears as great in your private life, as in the moſt important offices which you have borne. I would therefore rather chuſe to ſpeak of the pleaſure you afford all who are admitted into your converſation, of your elegant taſte in all the polite parts of learning, of your great humanity and complacency of manners, and of the ſurprizing influence which is peculiar to you, in making every one, who converſes with your Lordſhip, prefer you to himſelf, without thinking the leſs meanly of his own talents. But if I ſhould take notice of all that might be obſerved in your Lordſhip, I ſhould have nothing new to ſay upon any other character of diſtinction. I am,

My Lord,

Your Lordſhip's moſt obedient,

moſt devoted, humble Servant,

THE SPECTATOR.

THE SPECTATOR.

VOLUME THE FIRST.

N° I. THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 1710-11.

NON FUMUM EX FULGORE, SED EX FUMO DARE LUCEM
COGITAT, UT SPECIOSA DEHINC MIRACULA PROMAT.
HOR. ARS POET. VER. 143.

ONE WITH A FLASH BEGINS, AND ENDS IN SMOKE;
THE OTHER OUT OF SMOKE BRINGS GLORIOUS LIGHT,
AND (WITHOUT RAISING EXPECTATION HIGH)
SURPRIZES US WITH DAZZLING MIRACLES. ROSCOMMON.

I Have obſerved, that a reader ſeldom peruſes a book with pleaſure, till he knows whether the writer of it be a black or a fair man, of a mild or choleric diſpoſition, married or a bachelor; with other particulars of the like nature, that conduce very much to the right underſtanding of an author. To gratify this curioſity, which is ſo natural to a reader, I deſign this paper and my next as prefatory diſcourſes to my following writings, and ſhall give ſome account in them of the ſeveral perſons that are engaged in this work. As the chief trouble of compiling, digeſting, and correcting, will fall to my ſhare, I muſt do myſelf the juſtice to open the work with my own hiſtory.

I was born to a ſmall hereditary eſtate, which, according to the tradition of the village where it lies, was bounded by the ſame hedges and ditches in William the Conqueror's time that it is at preſent, and has been delivered down from father to ſon whole and entire, without the loſs or acquiſition of a ſingle field or meadow, during the ſpace of ſix hundred years. There runs a ſtory in the family, that when my mother was gone with child of me about three months, ſhe dreamt that ſhe was brought to-bed of a Judge: whether this might proceed from a law-ſuit which was then depending in the family, or my father's being a juſtice of the peace, I cannot determine; for I am not ſo vain as to think it preſaged any dignity that I ſhould arrive at in my future life, though that was the interpretation which the neighbourhood put upon it. The gravity of my behaviour at my very firſt appearance in the world, and all the time that I ſucked, ſeemed to favour my mother's dream; for, as ſhe has often told me, I threw away my rattle before I was two months old, and would not make uſe of my coral until they had taken away the bells from it.

As for the reſt of my infancy, there being nothing in it remarkable, I ſhall paſs over it in ſilence. I find, that, during my nonage, I had the reputa-

tion

tion of a very ſullen youth; but was always a favourite of my ſchoolmaſter, who uſed to ſay—'that my parts were ſo-'lid, and would wear well.' I had not been long at the univerſity, before I diſtinguiſhed myſelf by a moſt profound ſilence; for during the ſpace of eight years, excepting in the public exerciſes of the college, I ſcarce uttered the quantity of an hundred words; and, indeed, do not remember that I ever ſpoke three ſentences together in my whole life. Whilſt I was in this learned body, I applied myſelf with ſo much diligence to my ſtudies, that there are very few celebrated books, either in the learned or the modern tongues, which I am not acquainted with.

Upon the death of my father, I was reſolved to travel into foreign countries; and therefore left the univerſity, with the character of an odd, unaccountable fellow, that had a great deal of learning, if I would but ſhew it. An inſatiable thirſt after knowledge carried me into all the countries of Europe, in which there was any thing new or ſtrange to be ſeen; nay, to ſuch a degree was my curioſity raiſed, that having read the controverſies of ſome great men concerning the antiquities of Egypt, I made a voyage to Grand Cairo, on purpoſe to take the meaſure of a pyramid; and as ſoon as I had ſet myſelf right in that particular, returned to my native country with great ſatisfaction.

I have paſſed my latter years in this city, where I am frequently ſeen in moſt public places, though there are not above half a dozen of my ſelect friends that know me; of whom my next paper ſhall give a more particular account. There is no place of general reſort, wherein I do not often make my appearance; ſometimes I am ſeen thruſting my head into a round of politician's at Will's, and liſtening with great attention to the narratives that are made in thoſe little circular audiences. Sometimes I ſmoke a pipe at Child's, and whilſt I ſeem attentive to nothing but the Poſtman, overhear the converſation of every table in the room. I appear on Sunday nights at St. James's Coffee-houſe; and ſometimes join the little committee of politics in the inner room, as one who comes there to hear and improve. My face is likewiſe very well known at the Grecian, the Cocoa Tree, and in the theatres both of Drury Lane and the Haymarket. I have been taken for a merchant upon the Exchange for above theſe ten years, and ſometimes paſs for a Jew in the aſſembly of ſtock-jobbers at Jonathan's. In ſhort, wherever I ſee a cluſter of people, I always mix with them, though I never open my lips but in my own club.

Thus I live in the world rather as a ſpectator of mankind, than as one of the ſpecies; by which means I have made myſelf a ſpeculative ſtateſman, ſoldier, merchant, and artiſan, without ever meddling with any practical part in life. I am very well verſed in the theory of a huſband or a father; and can diſcern the errors in the œconomy, buſineſs, and diverſion of others, better than thoſe who are engaged in them; as ſtanders-by diſcover blots, which are apt to eſcape thoſe who are in the game. I never eſpouſed any party with violence, and am reſolved to obſerve an exact neutrality between the Whigs and Tories, unleſs I ſhall be forced to declare myſelf by the hoſtilities of either ſide. In ſhort, I have acted in all the parts of my life as a looker-on, which is the character I intend to preſerve in this paper.

I have given the reader juſt ſo much of my hiſtory and character, as to let him ſee I am not altogether unqualified for the buſineſs I have undertaken. As for other particulars in my life and adventures, I ſhall inſert them in following papers as I ſhall ſee occaſion. In the mean time, when I conſider how much I have ſeen, read, and heard, I begin to blame my own taciturnity; and ſince I have neither time nor inclination to communicate the fulneſs of my heart in ſpeech, I am reſolved to do it in writing, and to print myſelf out, if poſſible, before I die. I have been often told by my friends, that it is pity ſo many uſeful diſcoveries which I have made ſhould be in the poſſeſſion of a ſilent man. For this reaſon, therefore, I ſhall publiſh a ſheet-full of thoughts every morning, for the benefit of my contemporaries; and if I can any way contribute to the diverſion or improvement of the country in which I live, I ſhall leave it, when I am ſummoned out of it, with the ſecret ſatisfaction of thinking that I have not lived in vain.

There are three very material points which I have not ſpoken to in this paper; and which, for ſeveral important

reaſons,

reaſons, I muſt keep to myſelf, at leaſt for ſome time: I mean, an account of my name, my age, and my lodgings. I muſt confeſs, I would gratify my reader in any thing that is reaſonable; but as for theſe three particulars, though I am ſenſible they might tend very much to the embelliſhment of my paper, I cannot yet come to a reſolution of communicating them to the public. They would indeed draw me out of that obſcurity which I have enjoyed for many years, and expoſe me in public places to ſeveral ſalutes and civilities, which have been always very diſagreeable to me; for the greateſt pain I can ſuffer is, the being talked to, and being ſtared at. It is for this reaſon likewiſe, that I keep my complexion and dreſs as very great ſecrets; though it is not impoſſible but I may make diſcoveries of both, in the progreſs of the work I have undertaken.

After having been thus particular upon myſelf, I ſhall in to-morrow's paper give an account of thoſe gentlemen who are concerned with me in this work: for, as I have before intimated, a plan of it is laid and concerted, as all other matters of importance are, in a club. However, as my friends have engaged me to ſtand in the front, thoſe who have a mind to correſpond with me, may direct their letters to the Spectator, at Mr. Buckley's, in Little Britain. For I muſt further acquaint the reader, that though our club meets only on Tueſdays and Thurſdays, we have appointed a committee to ſit every night for the inſpection of all ſuch papers as may contribute to the advancement of the public weal.

C

Nº II. FRIDAY, MARCH 2.

AST ALII SEX
ET PLURES UNO CONCLAMANT ORE.—— JUV. SAT. 7. V. 167.

SIX MORE AT LEAST JOIN THEIR CONSENTING VOICE.

THE firſt of our ſociety is a gentleman of Worceſterſhire, of ancient deſcent, a baronet, his name Sir Roger de Coverley. His great grandfather was inventor of that famous country-dance which is called after him. All who know that ſhire are very well acquainted with the parts and merits of Sir Roger. He is a gentleman that is very ſingular in his behaviour, but his ſingularities proceed from his good ſenſe, and are contradictions to the manners of the world, only as he thinks the world is in the wrong. However, this humour creates him no enemies, for he does nothing with ſourneſs or obſtinacy; and his being unconfined to modes and forms makes him but the readier and more capable to pleaſe and oblige all who know him. When he is in town, he lives in Soho Square. It is ſaid, he keeps himſelf a bachelor, by reaſon he was croſſed in love by a perverſe beautiful widow of the next county to him. Before this diſappointment, Sir Roger was what you call a fine gentleman, had often ſupped with my Lord Rocheſter and Sir George Etherege, fought a duel upon his firſt coming to town, and kicked Bully Dawſon in a public coffee-houſe for calling him youngſter. But being ill uſed by the above-mentioned widow, he was very ſerious for a year and a half; and though, his temper being naturally jovial, he at laſt got over it, he grew careleſs of himſelf, and never dreſſed afterwards. He continues to wear a coat and doublet of the ſame cut that were in faſhion at the time of his repulſe, which in his merry humours, he tells us, has been in and out twelve times ſince he firſt wore it. It is ſaid Sir Roger grew humble in his deſires after he had forgot this cruel beauty, inſomuch that it is reported he has frequently offended in point of chaſtity with beggars and gypſies: but this is looked upon by his friends rather as matter of raillery than truth. He is now in his fifty-ſixth year, chearful, gay, and hearty; keeps a good houſe both in town and country; a great lover of mankind; but there is ſuch a mirthful caſt in his behaviour, that he is rather beloved than eſteemed. His tenants grow rich, his ſervants look ſatisfied, all the young women profeſs love to him, and the young men are glad of his company; when he comes into a houſe, he calls the ſervants by their names, and talks all

the way up-ſtairs to a viſit. I muſt not omit, that Sir Roger is a juſtice of the quorum; that he fills the chair at a quarter-ſeſſion with great abilities, and three months ago gained univerſal applauſe by explaining a paſſage in the game-act.

The gentleman next in eſteem and authority among us, is another bachelor, who is a member of the Inner-Temple; a man of great probity, wit, and underſtanding; but he has choſen his place of reſidence, rather to obey the direction of an old humourſome father, than in purſuit of his own inclinations. He was placed there to ſtudy the laws of the land, and is the moſt learned of any of the houſe in thoſe of the ſtage. Ariſtotle and Longinus are much better underſtood by him than Littleton or Coke. The father ſends up every poſt queſtions relating to marriage-articles, leaſes, and tenures, in the neighbourhood; all which queſtions he agrees with an attorney to anſwer and take care of in the lump. He is ſtudying the paſſions themſelves, when he ſhould be enquiring into the debates among men which ariſe from them. He knows the argument of each of the orations of Demoſthenes and Tully; but not one caſe in the reports of our own courts. No one ever took him for a fool, but none, except his intimate friends, know he has a great deal of wit. This turn makes him at once both diſintereſted and agreeable: as few of his thoughts are drawn from buſineſs, they are moſt of them fit for converſation. His taſte of books is a little too juſt for the age he lives in; he has read all, but approves of very few. His familiarity with the cuſtoms, manners, actions, and writings of the ancients, makes him a very delicate obſerver of what occurs to him in the preſent world. He is an excellent critic, and the time of the play is his hour of buſineſs; exactly at five he paſſes through New Inn, croſſes through Ruſſel Court, and takes a turn at Will's till the play begins; he has his ſhoes rubbed and his periwig powdered at the barber's as you go into the Roſe. It is for the good of the audience when he is at a play, for the actors have an ambition to pleaſe him.

The perſon of next conſideration, is Sir Andrew Freeport, a merchant of great eminence in the city of London; a perſon of indefatigable induſtry, ſtrong reaſon, and great experience. His notions of trade are noble and generous, and (as every rich man has uſually ſome ſly way of jeſting, which would make no great figure were he not a rich man) he calls the ſea the Britiſh Common. He is acquainted with commerce in all it's parts, and will tell you, that it is a ſtupid and barbarous way to extend dominion by arms; for true power is to be got by arts and induſtry. He will often argue, that if this part of our trade were well cultivated, we ſhould gain from one nation; and if another, from another. I have heard him prove, that diligence makes more laſting acquiſitions than valour, and that ſloth has ruined more nations than the ſword. He abounds in ſeveral frugal maxims, amongſt which the greateſt favourite is—'A penny 'ſaved is a penny got.' A general trader of good ſenſe is pleaſanter company than a general ſcholar; and Sir Andrew having a natural unaffected eloquence, the perſpicuity of his diſcourſe gives the ſame pleaſure that wit would in another man. He has made his fortunes himſelf; and ſays that England may be richer than other kingdoms, by as plain methods as he himſelf is richer than other men; though at the ſame time I can ſay this of him, that there is not a point in the compaſs but blows home a ſhip in which he is an owner.

Next to Sir Andrew in the club-room ſits Captain Sentry, a gentleman of great courage, good underſtanding, but invincible modeſty. He is one of thoſe that deſerve very well, but are very aukward at putting their talents within the obſervation of ſuch as ſhould take notice of them. He was ſome years a captain, and behaved himſelf with great gallantry in ſeveral engagements, and at ſeveral ſieges; but having a ſmall eſtate of his own, and being next heir to Sir Roger, he has quitted a way of life in which no man can riſe ſuitably to his merit, who is not ſomething of a courtier, as well as a ſoldier. I have heard him often lament, that in a profeſſion where merit is placed in ſo conſpicuous a view, impudence ſhould get the better of modeſty. When he has talked to this purpoſe, I never heard him make a ſour expreſſion, but frankly confeſs that he left the world becauſe he was not fit for it. A ſtrict honeſty, and an even regular behaviour, are in themſelves obſtacles to him that muſt

preſs

preſs through crowds, who endeavour at the ſame end with himſelf, the favour of a commander. He will however in his way of talk excuſe generals, for not diſpoſing according to men's deſert, or inquiring into it; 'For,' ſays he, 'that 'great man who has a mind to help 'me, has as many to break through to 'come at me, as I have to come at 'him.' Therefore he will conclude, that the man who would make a figure, eſpecially in a military way, muſt get over all falſe modeſty; and aſſiſt his patron againſt the importunity of other pretenders, by a proper aſſurance in his own vindication. He ſays it is a civil cowardice to be backward in aſſerting what you ought to expect, as it is a military fear to be ſlow in attacking when it is your duty. With this candour does the gentleman ſpeak of himſelf and others. The ſame frankneſs runs through all his converſation. The military part of his life has furniſhed him with many adventures, in the relation of which he is very agreeable to the company; for he is never overbearing, though accuſtomed to command men in the utmoſt degree below him; nor ever too obſequious, from an habit of obeying men highly above him.

But that our ſociety may not appear a ſet of humouriſts, unacquainted with the gallantries and pleaſures of the age, we have among us the gallant Will Honeycomb; a gentleman who according to his years ſhould be in the decline of his life; but having ever been very careful of his perſon, and always had a very eaſy fortune, time has made but a very little impreſſion, either by wrinkles on his forehead, or traces in his brain. His perſon is well turned, of a good height. He is very ready at that ſort of diſcourſe with which men uſually entertain women. He has all his life dreſſed very well, and remembers habits as others do men. He can ſmile when one ſpeaks to him, and laughs eaſily. He knows the hiſtory of every mode, and can inform you from which of the French king's wenches our wives and daughters had this manner of curling their hair, that way of placing their hoods; whoſe frailty was covered by ſuch a ſort of petticoat, and whoſe vanity to ſhew her foot made that part of the dreſs ſo ſhort in ſuch a year. In a word, all his converſation and knowledge have been in the female world. As other men of his age will take notice to you what ſuch a miniſter ſaid upon ſuch and ſuch an occaſion; he will tell you, when the Duke of Monmouth danced at court, ſuch a woman was then ſmitten; another was taken with him at the head of his troop in the Park. In all theſe important relations, he has ever about the ſame time received a kind glance or a blow of a fan from ſome celebrated beauty, mother of the preſent Lord ſuch-a-one. If you ſpeak of a young commoner that ſaid a lively thing in the houſe, he ſtarts up—'He has good blood in his veins; 'Tom Mirabell begot him; the rogue 'cheated me in that affair, that young 'fellow's mother uſed me more like a 'dog, than any woman I ever made 'advances to.' This way of talking of his very much enlivens the converſation among us of a more ſedate turn; and I find there is not one of the company, but myſelf, who rarely ſpeak at all, but ſpeaks of him as of that ſort of man who is uſually called a well-bred fine gentleman. To conclude his character, where women are not concerned, he is an honeſt worthy man.

I cannot tell whether I am to account him, whom I am next to ſpeak of, as one of our company; for he viſits us but ſeldom, but, when he does, it adds to every man elſe a new enjoyment of himſelf. He is a clergyman, a very philoſophic man, of general learning, great ſanctity of life, and the moſt exact good-breeding. He has the misfortune to be of a very weak conſtitution, and conſequently cannot accept of ſuch cares and buſineſs as preferments in his function would oblige him to; he is therefore among divines what a chamber-counſellor is among lawyers. The probity of his mind, and the integrity of his life, create him followers; as being eloquent or loud advances others. He ſeldom introduces the ſubject he ſpeaks upon; but we are ſo far gone in years, that he obſerves when he is among us, an earneſtneſs to have him fall on ſome divine topic, which he always treats with much authority, as one who has no intereſts in this world, as one who is haſtening to the object of all his wiſhes, and conceives hope from his decays and infirmities. Theſe are my ordinary companions. R

N° III. SATURDAY, MARCH 3.

ET QUO QUISQUE FERE STUDIO DEVINCTUS ADHÆRET,
AUT QUIBUS IN REBUS MULTUM SUMUS ANTE MORATI,
ATQUE IN QUA RATIONE FUIT CONTENTA MAGIS MENS,
IN SOMNIS EADEM PLERUMQUE VIDEMUR OBIRE.

LUCR. L. 4. V. 959.

——WHAT STUDIES PLEASE, WHAT MOST DELIGHT,
AND FILL MEN'S THOUGHTS, THEY DREAM THEM O'ER AT NIGHT.

CREECH.

IN one of my late rambles, or rather ſpeculations, I looked into the great hall where the bank is kept, and was not a little pleaſed to ſee the directors, ſecretaries, and clerks, with all the other members of that wealthy corporation, ranged in their ſeveral ſtations, according to the parts they act in that juſt and regular œconomy. This revived in my memory the many diſcourſes which I had both read and heard concerning the decay of public credit, with the methods of reſtoring it, and which, in my opinion, have always been defective, becauſe they have always been made with an eye to ſeparate intereſts, and party principles.

The thoughts of the day gave my mind employment for the whole night, ſo that I fell inſenſibly into a kind of methodical dream, which diſpoſed all my contemplations into a viſion or allegory, or what elſe the reader ſhall pleaſe to call it.

Methought I returned to the great hall, where I had been the morning before, but, to my ſurpriſe, inſtead of the company that I left there, I ſaw, towards the upper end of the hall, a beautiful virgin, ſeated on a throne of gold. Her name (as they told me) was Public Credit. The walls, inſtead of being adorned with pictures and maps, were hung with many acts of parliament written in golden letters. At the upper end of the hall was the Magna Charta, with the act of uniformity on the right-hand, and the act of toleration on the left. At the lower end of the hall was the act of ſettlement, which was placed full in the eye of the virgin that ſat upon the throne. Both the ſides of the hall were covered with ſuch acts of parliament as had been made for the eſtabliſhment of public funds. The lady ſeemed to ſet an unſpeakable value upon theſe ſeveral pieces of furniture, inſomuch that ſhe often refreſhed her eye with them, and often ſmiled with a ſecret pleaſure as ſhe looked upon them; but, at the ſame time, ſhewed a very particular uneaſineſs, if ſhe ſaw any thing approaching that might hurt them. She appeared indeed infinitely timorous in all her behaviour: and, whether it was from the delicacy of her conſtitution, or that ſhe was troubled with vapours, as I was afterwards told by one who I found was none of her well-wiſhers, ſhe changed colour, and ſtartled at every thing ſhe heard. She was likewiſe (as I afterwards found) a greater valetudinarian than any I had ever met with even in her own ſex, and ſubject to ſuch momentary conſumptions, that, in the twinkling of an eye, ſhe would fall away from the moſt florid complexion, and the moſt healthful ſtate of body, and wither into a ſkeleton. Her recoveries were often as ſudden as her decays, inſomuch that ſhe would revive in a moment out of a waſting diſtemper into a habit of the higheſt health and vigour.

I had very ſoon an opportunity of obſerving theſe quick turns and changes in her conſtitution. There ſat at her feet a couple of ſecretaries, who received every hour letters from all parts of the world, which the one or the other of them was perpetually reading to her; and, according to the news ſhe heard, to which ſhe was exceedingly attentive, ſhe changed colour, and diſcovered many ſymptoms of health or ſickneſs.

Behind the throne was a prodigious heap of bags of money, which were piled upon one another ſo high that they touched the cieling. The floor, on her right-hand and on her left, was covered with vaſt ſums of gold that roſe up in pyramids on either ſide of her: but this I did not ſo much wonder at, when I heard, upon inquiry, that ſhe had the ſame virtue in her touch, which the poets tell us a Lydian king was formerly

ly poſſeſſed of; and that ſhe could convert whatever ſhe pleaſed into that precious metal.

After a little dizzineſs, and confuſed hurry of thought, which a man often meets with in a dream, methought the hall was alarmed, the doors flew open, and there entered half a dozen of the moſt hideous phantoms that I had ever ſeen, even in a dream, before that time. They came in two by two, though matched in the moſt diſſociable manner, and mingled together in a kind of dance. It would be tedious to deſcribe their habits and perſons; for which reaſon, I ſhall only inform my reader that the firſt couple were Tyranny and Anarchy, the ſecond were Bigotry and Atheiſm, the third, the Genius of a Commonwealth, and a young man of about twenty-two years of age, whoſe name I could not learn. He had a ſword in his right-hand, which in the dance he often brandiſhed at the Act of Settlement; and a citizen, who ſtood by me, whiſpered in my ear, that he ſaw a ſponge in his left-hand. The dance of ſo many jarring natures put me in mind of the ſun, moon, and earth, in the Rehearſal, that danced together for no other end but to eclipſe one another.

The reader will eaſily ſuppoſe, by what has been before ſaid, that the lady on the throne would have been almoſt frighted to diſtraction, had ſhe ſeen but any one of theſe ſpectres; what then muſt have been her condition when ſhe ſaw them all in a body? She fainted and died away at the ſight—

Et neque jam color eſt miſto candore rubori;
Nec vigor, et vires, et quæ modò viſa placebant;
Nec corpus remanet—

OVID. MET. l. 3. v. 491.

Her ſpirits faint,
Her blooming cheeks aſſume a palid taint,
And ſcarce her form remains.

There was as great a change in the hill of money-bags, and the heaps of money, the former ſhrinking and falling into ſo many empty bags, that I now found not above a tenth part of them had been filled with money. The reſt that took up the ſame ſpace, and made the ſame figure as the bags that were really filled with money, had been blown up with air, and called into my memory the bags full of wind, which Homer tells us his hero received as a preſent from Æolus. The great heaps of gold on either ſide the throne now appeared to be only heaps of paper, or little piles of notched ſticks, bound up together in bundles like Bath-faggots.

Whilſt I was lamenting this ſudden deſolation that had been made before me, the whole ſcene vaniſhed: in the room of the frightful ſpectres, there now entered a ſecond dance of apparitions, very agreeably matched together, and made up of very amiable phantoms. The firſt pair was Liberty with Monarchy at her right-hand; the ſecond was Moderation, leading in Religion; and the third a perſon whom I had never ſeen, with the Genius of Great Britain. At the firſt entrance the lady revived, the bags ſwelled to their former bulk, the piles of faggots and heaps of paper changed into pyramids of guineas: and for my own part, I was ſo tranſported with joy, that I awaked, though, I muſt confeſs, I would fain have fallen aſleep again to have cloſed my viſion, if I could have done it.

C

Nº IV. MONDAY, MARCH 5.

——EGREGII MORTALEM ALTIQUE SILENTI?
HOR. SAT. 6. l. 2. v. 58.

ONE OF UNCOMMON SILENCE AND RESERVE.

AN author, when he firſt appears in the world, is very apt to believe it has nothing to think of but his performances. With a good ſhare of this vanity in my heart, I made it my buſineſs theſe three days to liſten after my own fame; and as I have ſometimes met with circumſtances which did not diſpleaſe me, I have been encountered by others which gave me as much mortification. It is incredible to think how empty I have in this time obſerved ſome part of the ſpecies to be, what mere blanks they are when they firſt come abroad

abroad in the morning, how utterly they are at a ſtand until they are ſet a-going by ſome paragraph in a news-paper: ſuch perſons are very acceptable to a young author, for they deſire no more in any thing but to be new to be agreeable. If I found conſolation among ſuch, I was as much diſquieted by the incapacity of others. Theſe are mortals who have a certain curioſity without power of reflection, and peruſed my papers like ſpectators rather than readers. But there is ſo little pleaſure in enquiries that ſo nearly concern ourſelves, (it being the worſt way in the world to fame, to be too anxious about it) that upon the whole I reſolved for the future to go on in my ordinary way; and without too much fear or hope about the buſineſs of reputation, to be very careful of the deſign of my actions, but very negligent of the conſequences of them.

It is an endleſs and frivolous purſuit to act by any other rule than the care of ſatisfying our own minds in what we do. One would think a ſilent man, who concerned himſelf with no one breathing, ſhould be very little liable to miſinterpretations; and yet I remember I was once taken up for a Jeſuit, for no other reaſon but my profound taciturnity. It is from this misfortune, that to be out of harm's way, I have ever ſince affected crowds. He who comes into aſſemblies only to gratify his curioſity, and not to make a figure, enjoys the pleaſures of retirement in a more exquiſite degree than he poſſibly could in his cloſet; the lover, the ambitious, and the miſer, are followed thither by a worſe crowd than any they can withdraw from. To be exempt from the paſſions with which others are tormented, is the only pleaſing ſolitude. I can very juſtly ſay with the ancient ſage—'I am never leſs alone than when alone.' As I am inſignificant to the company in public places, and as it is viſible I do not come thither, as moſt do, to ſhew myſelf; I gratify the vanity of all who pretend to make an appearance, and have often as kind looks from well-dreſſed gentlemen and ladies, as a poet would beſtow upon one of his audience. There are ſo many gratifications attend this public ſort of obſcurity, that ſome little diſtaſtes I daily receive have loſt their anguiſh; and I did the other day, without the leaſt diſpleaſure, overhear one ſay of me—'That ſtrange fellow;' and another anſwer—'I have known 'the fellow's face theſe twelve years; 'and ſo muſt you; but I believe you 'are the firſt ever aſked who he was.' There are, I muſt confeſs, many to whom my perſon is as well known as that of their neareſt relations, who give themſelves no farther trouble about calling me by my name or quality, but ſpeak of me very currently by Mr. What d'ye call him.

To make up for theſe trivial diſadvantages, I have the high ſatisfaction of beholding all nature with an unprejudiced eye; and having nothing to do with men's paſſions or intereſts, I can with the greater ſagacity conſider their talents, manners, failings, and merits.

It is remarkable that thoſe who want any one ſenſe poſſeſs the others with greater force and vivacity. Thus my want of, or rather reſignation of, ſpeech, gives me all the advantages of a dumb man. I have, methinks, a more than ordinary penetration in ſeeing; and flatter myſelf that I have looked into the higheſt and loweſt of mankind, and make ſhrewd gueſſes, without being admitted to their converſation, at the inmoſt thoughts and reflections of all whom I behold. It is from hence that good or ill fortune has no manner of force towards affecting my judgment. I ſee men flouriſhing in courts, and languiſhing in jails, without being prejudiced from their circumſtances to their favour or diſadvantage; but from their inward manner of bearing their condition, often pity the proſperous, and admire the unhappy.

Thoſe who converſe with the dumb, know from the turn of their eyes, and the changes of their countenance, their ſentiments of the objects before them. I have indulged my ſilence to ſuch an extravagance, that the few who are intimate with me, anſwer my ſmiles with concurrent ſentences, and argue to the very point I ſhaked my head at, without my ſpeaking. Will Honeycomb was very entertaining the other night at a play, to a gentleman who ſat on his right-hand, while I was at his left. The gentleman believed Will was talking to himſelf, when upon my looking with great approbation at a young thing in a box before us, he ſaid—'I am 'quite of another opinion. She has, I 'allow, a very pleaſing aſpect, but me-'thinks that ſimplicity in her counte-

'nance

'nance is rather childiſh than innocent.' When I obſerved her a ſecond time, he ſaid—'I grant her dreſs is very becoming, but perhaps the merit of that choice is owing to her mother; for though,' continued he, 'I allow a beauty to be as much commended for the elegance of her dreſs, as a wit for that of his language; yet, if ſhe has ſtolen the colour of her ribbands from another, or had advice about her trimmings, I ſhall not allow her the praiſe of dreſs, any more than I would call a plagiary an author.' When I threw my eye towards the next woman to her, Will ſpoke what I looked, according to his romantic imagination, in the following manner.

'Behold, you who dare, that charming virgin; behold the beauty of her perſon chaſtiſed by the innocence of her thoughts. Chaſtity, good-nature, and affability, are the graces that play in her countenance; ſhe knows ſhe is handſome, but ſhe knows ſhe is good. Conſcious beauty adorned with conſcious virtue! What a ſpirit is there in thoſe eyes! What a bloom in that perſon! How is the whole woman expreſſed in her appearance! her air has the beauty of motion, and her look the force of language.'

It was prudence to turn away my eyes from this object, and therefore I turned them to the thoughtleſs creatures who make up the lump of that ſex, and move a knowing eye no more than the portraitures of inſignificant people by ordinary painters, which are but pictures of pictures.

Thus the working of my own mind is the general entertainment of my life; I never enter into the commerce of diſcourſe with any but my particular friends, and not in public even with them. Such an habit has perhaps raiſed in me uncommon reflections; but this effect I cannot communicate but by my writings. As my pleaſures are almoſt wholly confined to thoſe of the ſight, I take it for a peculiar happineſs that I have always had an eaſy and familiar admittance to the fair-ſex. If I never praiſed or flattered, I never belyed or contradicted them. As theſe compoſe half the world, and are, by the juſt complaiſance and gallantry of our nation, the more powerful part of our people, I ſhall dedicate a conſiderable ſhare of theſe my ſpeculations to their ſervice, and ſhall lead the young through all the becoming duties of virginity, marriage, and widowhood. When it is a woman's day, in my works, I ſhall endeavour at a ſtile and air ſuitable to their underſtanding. When I ſay this, I muſt be underſtood to mean, that I ſhall not lower but exalt the ſubjects I treat upon. Diſcourſe for their entertainment, is not to be debaſed but refined. A man may appear learned without talking ſentences, as in his ordinary geſture he diſcovers he can dance though he does not cut capers. In a word, I ſhall take it for the greateſt glory of my work, if among reaſonable women this paper may furniſh tea-table talk. In order to it, I ſhall treat on matters which relate to females, as they are concerned to approach or fly from the other ſex, or as they are tied to them by blood, intereſt, or affection. Upon this occaſion I think it but reaſonable to declare, that whatever ſkill I may have in ſpeculation, I ſhall never betray what the eyes of lovers ſay to each other in my preſence. At the ſame time I ſhall not think myſelf obliged, by this promiſe, to conceal any falſe proteſtations which I obſerve made by glances in public aſſemblies; but endeavour to make both ſexes appear in their conduct what they are in their hearts. By this means, love, during the time of my ſpeculations, ſhall be carried on with the ſame ſincerity as any other affairs of leſs conſideration. As this is the greateſt concern, men ſhall be from henceforth liable to the greateſt reproach for miſbehaviour in it. Falſehood in love ſhall hereafter bear a blacker aſpect, than infidelity in friendſhip, or villainy in buſineſs. For this great and good end, all breaches againſt that noble paſſion, the cement of ſociety, ſhall be ſeverely examined. But this, and all other matters looſely hinted at now, and in my former papers, ſhall have their proper place in my following diſcourſes; the preſent writing is only to admoniſh the world, that they ſhall not find me an idle but a buſy Spectator. R

Nº V. TUESDAY, MARCH 6.

SPECTATUM ADMISSI RISUM TENEATIS? HOR. ARS POET. VER. 5.

ADMITTED TO THE SIGHT, WOU'D YOU NOT LAUGH?

AN Opera may be allowed to be extravagantly laviſh in it's decorations, as it's only deſign is to gratify the ſenſes, and keep up an indolent attention in the audience. Common ſenſe however requires, that there ſhould be nothing in the ſcenes and machines which may appear childiſh and abſurd. How would the wits of King Charles's time have laughed to have ſeen Nicolini expoſed to a tempeſt in robes of ermine, and ſailing in an open boat upon a ſea of paſteboard? What a field of raillery would they have been let into, had they been entertained with painted dragons ſpitting wild-fire, enchanted chariots drawn by Flanders mares, and real caſcades in artificial landſkips? A little ſkill in criticiſm would inform us, that ſhadows and realities ought not to be mixed together in the ſame piece; and, that the ſcenes which are deſigned as the repreſentations of nature, ſhould be filled with reſemblances, and not with the things themſelves. If one would repreſent a wide champain country filled with herds and flocks, it would be ridiculous to draw the country only upon the ſcenes, and to croud ſeveral parts of the ſtage with ſheep and oxen. This is joining together inconſiſtencies, and making the decoration partly real and partly imaginary. I would recommend what I have ſaid here to the directors, as well as to the admirers of our modern opera.

As I was walking in the ſtreets about a fortnight ago, I ſaw an ordinary fellow carrying a cage full of little birds upon his ſhoulder; and, as I was wondering with myſelf what uſe he would put them to, he was met very luckily by an acquaintance, who had the ſame curioſity. Upon his aſking him what he had upon his ſhoulder, he told him that he had been buying ſparrows for the opera. 'Sparrows for the opera,' ſays his friend, licking his lips, 'what, are 'they to be roaſted?'—'No, no,' ſays the other, 'they are to enter towards the 'end of the firſt act, and to fly about 'the ſtage.'

This ſtrange dialogue awakened my curioſity ſo far, that I immediately bought the opera, by which means I perceived that the ſparrows were to act the part of ſinging-birds in a delightful grove; though upon a nearer enquiry I found the ſparrows put the ſame trick upon the audience, that Sir Martin Mar-all practiſed upon his miſtreſs; for though they flew in ſight, the muſic proceeded from a conſort of flageolets and birds-calls which were planted behind the ſcenes. At the ſame time I made this diſcovery, I found by the diſcourſe of the actors, that there were great deſigns on foot for the improvement of the opera; that it had been propoſed to break down a part of the wall, and to ſurpriſe the audience with a party of an hundred horſe; and that there was actually a project of bringing the New River into the houſe, to be employed in jetteaus and water-works. This project, as I have ſince heard, is poſtponed till the ſummer ſeaſon; when it is thought the coolneſs that proceeds from fountains and caſcades will be more acceptable and refreſhing to people of quality. In the mean time, to find out a more agreeable entertainment for the winter ſeaſon, the opera of Rinaldo is filled with thunder and lightning, illuminations and fire-works; which the audience may look upon without catching cold, and indeed, without much danger of being burnt; for there are ſeveral engines filled with water, and ready to play at a minute's warning, in caſe any ſuch accident ſhould happen. However, as I have a very great friendſhip for the owner of this theatre, I hope that he has been wiſe enough to inſure his houſe before he would let this opera be acted in it.

It is no wonder that thoſe ſcenes ſhould be very ſurpriſing which were contrived by two poets of different nations, and raiſed by two magicians of different

different ſexes. Armida (as we are told in the argument) was an Amazonian enchantreſs, and poor Signior Caſſani (as we learn from the perſons repreſented) a Chriſtian conjuror (mago Chriſtiano.) I muſt confeſs I am very much puzzled to find how an Amazon ſhould be verſed in the black art; or how a good Chriſtian, for ſuch is the part of the magician, ſhould deal with the devil.

To conſider the poet after the conjuror, I ſhall give you a taſte of the Italian from the firſt lines of his preface. '*Eccoti, benigno lettore, un parto di poche* '*ſere, che ſe ben nato di notte, non è però* '*aborto di tenebre, mà ſi farà conoſcere* '*figlio d'Apollo con qualche raggio di Par-* '*naſſo.*—Behold, gentle reader, the birth 'of a few evenings, which, though it 'be the offſpring of the night, is not 'the abortive of darkneſs, but will 'make itſelf known to be the ſon of 'Apollo, with a certain ray of Par-'naſſus.' He afterwards proceeds to call Mynheer Handel the Orpheus of our age, and to acquaint us, in the ſame ſublimity of ſtile, that he compoſed this opera in a fortnight. Such are the wits to whoſe taſtes we ſo ambitiouſly conform ourſelves. The truth of it is, the fineſt writers among the modern Italians expreſs themſelves in ſuch a florid form of words, and ſuch tedious circumlocutions, as are uſed by none but pedants in our own country; and at the ſame time fill their writings with ſuch poor imaginations and conceits, as our youths are aſhamed of before they have been two years at the univerſity. Some may be apt to think that it is the difference of genius which produces the difference in the works of the two nations; but to ſhew there is nothing in this, if we look into the writings of the old Italians, ſuch as Cicero and Virgil, we ſhall find that the Engliſh writers, in their way of thinking and expreſſing themſelves, reſemble thoſe authors much more than the modern Italians pretend to do. And as for the poet himſelf, from whom the dreams of this opera are taken, I muſt intirely agree with Monſieur Boileau, that one verſe in Virgil is worth all the clincant or tinſel of Taſſo.

But to return to the ſparrows; there have been ſo many flights of them let looſe in this opera, that it is feared the houſe will never get rid of them; and that in other plays they may make their entrance in very wrong and improper ſcenes, ſo as to be ſeen flying in a lady's bed-chamber, or perching upon a king's throne; beſides the inconveniencies which the heads of the audiences may ſometimes ſuffer from them. I am credibly informed, that there was once a deſign of caſting into an opera the ſtory of Whittington and his cat, and that in order to it, there had been got together a great quantity of mice; but Mr. Rich, the proprietor of the playhouſe, very prudently conſidered that it would be impoſſible for the cat to kill them all, and that conſequently the princes of the ſtage might be as much infeſted with mice, as the prince of the iſland was before the cat's arrival upon it; for which reaſon he would not permit it to be acted in his houſe. And indeed I cannot blame him; for, as he ſaid very well upon that occaſion, I do not hear that any of the performers in our opera pretend to equal the famous pied piper, who made all the mice of a great town in Germany follow his muſic, and by that means cleared the place of thoſe little noxious animals.

Before I diſmiſs this paper, I muſt inform my reader, that I hear there is a treaty on foot with London and Wiſe (who will be appointed gardeners of the playhouſe) to furniſh the opera of Rinaldo and Armida with an orange-grove; and that the next time it is acted, the ſinging-birds will be perſonated by tom-tits; the undertakers being reſolved to ſpare neither pains nor money for the gratification of the audience.

C

Nº VI. WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7.

CREDEBANT HOC GRANDE NEFAS, ET MORTE PIANDUM,
SI JUVENIS VETULO NON ASSURREXERAT. JUV. SAT. XIII. 34.

'TWAS IMPIOUS THEN (SO MUCH WAS AGE REVER'D)
FOR YOUTH TO KEEP THEIR SEAT, WHEN AN OLD MAN APPEAR'D.

I Know no evil under the ſun ſo great as the abuſe of the underſtanding, and yet there is no one vice more common. It has diffuſed itſelf through both ſexes and all qualities of mankind; and there is hardly that perſon to be found, who is not more concerned for the reputation of wit and ſenſe, than honeſty and virtue. But this unhappy affectation of being wiſe rather than honeſt, witty than good-natured, is the ſource of moſt of the ill habits of life. Such falſe impreſſions are owing to the abandoned writings of men of wit, and the aukward imitation of the reſt of mankind.

For this reaſon Sir Roger was ſaying laſt night, that he was of opinion none but men of fine parts deſerve to be hanged. The reflections of ſuch men are ſo delicate upon all occurrences which they are concerned in, that they ſhould be expoſed to more than ordinary infamy and puniſhment for offending againſt ſuch quick admonitions as their own ſouls give them, and blunting the fine edge of their minds in ſuch a manner, that they are no more ſhocked at vice and folly, than men of ſlower capacities. There is no greater monſter in being, than a very ill man of great parts: he lives like a man in a palſy, with one ſide of him dead. While perhaps he enjoys the ſatisfaction of luxury, of wealth, of ambition, he has loſt the taſte of good-will, of friendſhip, of innocence. Scarecrow, the beggar in Lincoln's-Inn-Fields, who diſabled himſelf in his right leg, and aſks alms all day to get himſelf a warm ſupper and a trull at night, is not half ſo deſpicable a wretch as ſuch a man of ſenſe. The beggar has no reliſh above ſenſations; he finds reſt more agreeable than motion; and while he has a warm fire and his doxy, never reflects that he deſerves to be whipped. 'Every man who ter-
'minates his ſatisfactions and enjoy-
'ments within the ſupply of his own
'neceſſities and paſſions, is,' ſays Sir Roger, 'in my eye, as poor a rogue as
'Scarecrow. But,' continued he, 'for
'the loſs of public and private virtue,
'we are beholden to your men of parts
'forſooth; it is with them no matter
'what is done, ſo it be done with an
'air. But to me, who am ſo whimſical
'in a corrupt age as to act according
'to nature and reaſon, a ſelfiſh man,
'in the moſt ſhining circumſtance and
'equipage, appears in the ſame condi-
'tion with the fellow above-mentioned,
'but more contemptible, in proportion
'to what more he robs the public of,
'and enjoys above him. I lay it down
'therefore for a rule, that the whole man
'is to move together; that every action
'of any importance, is to have a pro-
'ſpect of public good; and that the
'general tendency of our indifferent
'actions ought to be agreeable to the
'dictates of reaſon, of religion, of good-
'breeding; without this a man, as I be-
'fore have hinted, is hopping inſtead of
'walking, he is not in his entire and
'proper motion.'

While the honeſt knight was thus bewildering himſelf in good ſtarts, I looked attentively upon him, which made him, I thought, collect his mind a little. 'What I aim at,' ſays he, 'is
'to repreſent, that I am of opinion, to
'poliſh our underſtandings and neglect
'our manners, is of all things the moſt
'inexcuſable. Reaſon ſhould govern
'paſſion, but inſtead of that, you ſee,
'it is often ſubſervient to it; and as
'unaccountable as one would think it,
'a wiſe man is not always a good man.
'This degeneracy is not only the gift
'of particular perſons, but at ſome
'times of a whole people: and perhaps
'it may appear upon examination, that
'the moſt polite ages are the leaſt vir-
'tuous. This may be attributed to
'the folly of admitting wit and learn-
'ing as merit in themſelves, without
'conſidering the application of them.
'By this means it becomes a rule, not
'ſo much to regard what we do, as how

'we

'we do it. But this falſe beauty will 'not paſs upon men of honeſt minds 'and true taſte: Sir Richard Black-'more ſays, with as much good ſenſe as 'virtue—" It is a mighty diſhonour " and ſhame to employ excellent fa-" culties and abundance of wit to hu-" mour and pleaſe men in their vices " and follies. The great enemy of " mankind, notwithſtanding his wit " and angelic faculties, is the moſt " odious being in the whole creation." 'He goes on ſoon after to ſay very ge-'nerouſly, that he undertook the writ-'ing of his poem " to reſcue the Muſes " out of the hands of raviſhers, to re-" ſtore them to their ſweet and chaſte " manſions, and to engage them in an " employment ſuitable to their dignity." 'This certainly ought to be the pur-'poſe of every man who appears in 'public, and whoever does not proceed 'upon that foundation, injures his 'country as faſt as he ſucceeds in his 'ſtudies. When modeſty ceaſes to be 'the chief ornament of one ſex, and 'integrity of the other, ſociety is upon 'a wrong baſis, and we ſhall be ever 'after without rules to guide our judg-'ment in what is really becoming and 'ornamental. Nature and reaſon di-'rect one thing, paſſion and humour 'another: to follow the dictates of the 'two latter, is going into a road that is 'both endleſs and intricate; when we 'purſue the other, our paſſage is de-'lightful, and what we aim at eaſily 'attainable.

'I do not doubt but England is at 'preſent as polite a nation as any in the 'world; but any man who thinks can 'eaſily ſee, that the affectation of be-'ing gay and in faſhion, has very near 'eaten up our good ſenſe and our reli-'gion. Is there any thing ſo juſt, as 'that mode and gallantry ſhould be 'built upon exerting ourſelves in what 'is proper and agreeable to the inſti-'tutions of juſtice and piety among us? 'And yet is there any thing more com-'mon than that we run in perfect con-'tradiction to them? All which is ſup-'ported by no other pretenſion, than 'that it is done with what we call a 'good grace.

'Nothing ought to be held laudable 'or becoming, but what nature itſelf 'ſhould prompt us to think ſo. Re-'ſpect to all kind of ſuperiors is found-'ed, methinks, upon inſtinct; and yet 'what is ſo ridiculous as age? I make 'this abrupt tranſition to the mention 'of this vice more than any other, in 'order to introduce a little ſtory, which 'I think a pretty inſtance that the moſt 'polite age is in danger of being the 'moſt vicious.

'It happened at Athens, during a 'public repreſentation of ſome play ex-'hibited in honour of the common-'wealth, that an old gentleman came 'too late for a place ſuitable to his age 'and quality. Many of the young 'gentlemen who obſerved the difficulty 'and confuſion he was in, made ſigns 'to him that they would accommodate 'him if he came where they ſat: the 'good man buſtled through the crowd 'accordingly; but when he came to 'the ſeats to which he was invited, the 'jeſt was to ſit cloſe, and expoſe him, 'as he ſtood out of countenance, to the 'whole audience. The frolic went 'round all the Athenian benches. But 'on thoſe occaſions there were alſo par-'ticular places aſſigned for foreigners: 'when the good man ſkulked towards 'the boxes appointed for the Lacede-'monians, that honeſt people, more vir-'tuous than polite, roſe up all to a 'man, and with the greateſt reſpect re-'ceived him among them. The Athe-'nians being ſuddenly touched with a 'ſenſe of the Spartan virtue, and their 'own degeneracy, gave a thunder of 'applauſe; and the old man cried out— " The Athenians underſtand what is " good, but the Lacedemonians prac-" tiſe it."

R

Nº VII. THURSDAY, MARCH 8.

SOMNIA, TERRORES MAGICOS, MIRACULA, SAGAS,
NOCTURNOS LEMURES, PORTENTAQUE THESSALA RIDES?
HOR. EP. II. 208.

VISIONS, AND MAGIC SPELLS, CAN YOU DESPISE,
AND LAUGH AT WITCHES, GHOSTS, AND PRODIGIES?

GOING yesterday to dine with an old acquaintance, I had the misfortune to find his whole family very much dejected. Upon asking him the occasion of it, he told me that his wife had dreamt a strange dream the night before, which they were afraid portended some misfortune to themselves or to their children. At her coming into the room I observed a settled melancholy in her countenance, which I should have been troubled for, had I not heard from whence it proceeded. We were no sooner sat down, but after having looked upon me a little while—'My dear,' says she, turning to her husband, 'you may 'now see the stranger that was in the 'candle last night.' Soon after this, as they began to talk of family affairs, a little boy at the lower end of the table told her, that he was to go into join-hand on Thursday. 'Thursday!' says she, 'no, child, if it please God, you 'shall not begin upon Childermas-day; 'tell your writing-master that Friday 'will be soon enough.' I was reflecting with myself on the oddness of her fancy, and wondering that any body would establish it as a rule to lose a day in every week. In the midst of these my musings, she desired me to reach her a little salt upon the point of my knife, which I did in such a trepidation and hurry of obedience, that I let it drop by the way; at which she immediately startled, and said it fell towards her. Upon this I looked very blank; and, observing the concern of the whole table, began to consider myself, with some confusion, as a person that had brought a disaster upon the family. The lady, however, recovering herself after a little space, said to her husband, with a sigh—'My dear, mis-'fortunes never come single.' My friend, I found, acted but an under-part at his table, and being a man of more good nature than understanding, thinks himself obliged to fall in with all the passions and humours of his yoke-fellow: 'Do not you remember, 'child,' says she, 'that the pigeon-'house fell the very afternoon that our 'careless wench spilt the salt upon the 'table?'—'Yes,' says he, 'my dear, 'and the next post brought us an ac-'count of the battle of Almanza.' The reader may guess at the figure I made after having done all this mischief. I dispatched my dinner as soon as I could, with my usual taciturnity; when, to my utter confusion, the lady seeing me quitting my knife and fork, and laying them across one another upon the plate, desired me that I would humour her so far as to take them out of that figure, and place them side by side. What the absurdity was which I had committed I did not know, but I suppose there was some traditionary superstition in it; and therefore, in obedience to the lady of the house, I disposed of my knife and fork in two parallel lines, which is the figure I shall always lay them in for the future, though I do not know any reason for it.

It is not difficult for a man to see that a person has conceived an aversion to him. For my own part, I quickly found, by the lady's looks, that she regarded me as a very odd kind of fellow, with an unfortunate aspect. For which reason I took my leave immediately after dinner, and withdrew to my own lodgings. Upon my return home, I fell into a profound contemplation on the evils that attend these superstitious follies of mankind; how they subject us to imaginary afflictions, and additional sorrows, that do not properly come within our lot. As if the natural calamities of life were not sufficient for it, we turn the most indifferent circumstances into misfortunes, and suffer as much from trifling accidents as from real evils. I have known the shooting of a star spoil a night's rest; and have seen a man in love grow pale and lose his appetite, upon

upon the plucking of a merry-thought. A ſcreech-owl at midnight has alarmed a family more than a band of robbers; nay, the voice of a cricket hath ſtruck more terror than the roaring of a lion. There is nothing ſo inconſiderable, which may not appear dreadful to an imagination that is filled with omens and prognoſtics. A ruſty nail, or a crooked pin, ſhoot up into prodigies.

I remember I was once in a mixt aſſembly, that was full of noiſe and mirth, when on a ſudden an old woman unluckily obſerved there was thirteen of us in company. This remark ſtruck a panic terror into ſeveral who were preſent, inſomuch that one or two of the ladies were going to leave the room; but a friend of mine taking notice that one of our female companions was big with child, affirmed there were fourteen in the room, and that, inſtead of portending one of the company ſhould die, it plainly foretold one of them ſhould be born. Had not my friend found this expedient to break the omen, I queſtion not but half the women in the company would have fallen ſick that very night.

An old maid, that is troubled with the vapours, produces infinite diſturbances of this kind among her friends and neighbours. I know a maiden aunt, of a great family, who is one of theſe antiquated Sibyls, that forebodes and propheſies from one end of the year to the other. She is always ſeeing apparitions, and hearing deathwatches; and was the other day almoſt frighted out of her wits by the great houſe-dog, that howled in the ſtable at a time when ſhe lay ill of the tooth-ach. Such an extravagant caſt of mind engages multitudes of people not only in impertinent terrors, but in ſupernumerary duties of life; and ariſes from that fear and ignorance which are natural to the ſoul of man. The horror with which we entertain the thoughts of death (or indeed of any future evil) and the uncertainty of it's approach, fill a melancholy mind with innumerable apprehenſions and ſuſpicions; and conſequently diſpoſe it to the obſervation of ſuch groundleſs prodigies and predictions. For as it is the chief concern of wiſe men to retrench the evils of life by the reaſonings of philoſophy; it is the employment of fools to multiply them by the ſentiments of ſuperſtition.

For my own part, I ſhould be very much troubled were I endowed with this divining quality, though it ſhould inform me truly of every thing that can befal me. I would not anticipate the reliſh of any happineſs, nor feel the weight of any miſery, before it actually arrives.

I know but one way of fortifying my ſoul againſt theſe gloomy preſages and terrors of mind, and that is, by ſecuring to myſelf the friendſhip and protection of that Being who diſpoſes of events, and governs futurity. He ſees at one view, the whole thread of my exiſtence, not only that part of it which I have already paſſed through, but that which runs forward into all the depths of eternity. When I lay me down to ſleep, I recommend myſelf to his care; when I awake, I give myſelf up to his direction. Amidſt all the evils that threaten me, I will look up to him for help, and queſtion not but he will either avert them, or turn them to my advantage. Though I know neither the time nor the manner of the death I am to die, I am not at all ſolicitous about it; becauſe I am ſure that he knows them both, and that he will not fail to comfort and ſupport me under them. C

N° VIII. FRIDAY, MARCH 9.

AT VENUS OBSCURO GRADIENTES AERE SEPSIT,
ET MULTO NEBULÆ CIRCUM DEA FUDIT AMICTU,
CERNERE NE QUIS EOS——— VIRG. ÆN. I. 415.

THEY MARCH OBSCURE, FOR VENUS KINDLY SHROUDS
WITH MISTS THEIR PERSONS, AND INVOLVES IN CLOUDS.
DRYDEN.

I Shall here communicate to the world a couple of letters, which I believe will give the reader as good an entertainment as any that I am able to furniſh him with, and therefore ſhall make no apology for them.

TO

TO THE SPECTATOR, &c.

SIR,

I Am one of the directors of the Society for the reformation of manners, and therefore think myſelf a proper perſon for your correſpondence. I have thoroughly examined the preſent ſtate of religion in Great Britain, and am able to acquaint you with the predominant vice of every market-town in the whole iſland. I can tell you the progreſs that virtue has made in all our cities, boroughs, and corporations; and know as well the evil practices that are committed in Berwick or Exeter, as what is done in my own family. In a word, Sir, I have my correſpondents in the remoteſt parts of the nation, who ſend me up punctual accounts from time to time of all the little irregularities that fall under their notice in their ſeveral diſtricts and diviſions.

I am no leſs acquainted with the particular quarters and regions of this great town, than with the different parts and diſtributions of the whole nation. I can deſcribe every pariſh by it's impieties, and can tell you in which of our ſtreets lewdneſs prevails, which gaming has taken the poſſeſſion of, and where drunkenneſs has got the better of them both. When I am diſpoſed to raiſe a fine for the poor, I know the lanes and alleys that are inhabited by common ſwearers. When I would encourage the hoſpital of Bridewell, and improve the hempen manufacture, I am very well acquainted with all the haunts and reſorts of female night-walkers.

After this ſhort account of myſelf, I muſt let you know, that the deſign of this paper is to give you information of a certain irregular aſſembly, which I think falls very properly under your obſervation, eſpecially ſince the perſons it is compoſed of are criminals too conſiderable for the animadverſions of our ſociety. I mean, Sir, the Midnight Maſk, which has of late been very frequently held in one of the moſt conſpicuous parts of the town, and which I hear will be continued with additions and improvements. As all the perſons who compoſe this lawleſs aſſembly are maſked, we dare not attack any of them in our way, leſt we ſhould ſend a woman of quality to Bridewell, or a peer of Great Britain to the Counter; beſides that, their numbers are ſo very great, that I am afraid they would be able to rout our whole fraternity, though we were accompanied with all our guard of conſtables. Both theſe reaſons, which ſecure them from our authority, make them obnoxious to yours; as both their diſguiſe and their numbers will give no particular perſon reaſon to think himſelf affronted by you.

If we are rightly informed, the rules that are obſerved by this new ſociety are wonderfully contrived for the advancement of cuckoldom. The women either come by themſelves, or are introduced by friends, who are obliged to quit them, upon their firſt entrance, to the converſation of any body that addreſſes himſelf to them. There are ſeveral rooms where the parties may retire, and if they pleaſe, ſhew their faces by conſent. Whiſpers, ſqueezes, nods, and embraces, are the innocent freedoms of the place. In ſhort, the whole deſign of this libidinous aſſembly ſeems to terminate in aſſignations and intrigues; and I hope you will take effectual methods by your public advice and admonitions, to prevent ſuch a promiſcuous multitude of both ſexes from meeting together in ſo clandeſtine a manner. I am, your humble ſervant, and fellow-labourer,

T. B.

Not long after the peruſal of this letter I received another upon the ſame ſubject; which, by the date and ſtile of it, I take to be written by ſome young Templar.

SIR, MIDDLE TEMPLE, 1710-11.

WHEN a man has been guilty of any vice or folly, I think the beſt atonement he can make for it, is to warn others not to fall into the like. In order to this I muſt acquaint you, that ſome time in February laſt I went to the Tueſday's maſquerade. Upon my firſt going in I was attacked by half a dozen female Quakers, who ſeemed willing to adopt me for a brother; but upon a nearer examination, I found they were a ſiſterhood of coquettes diſguiſed in that preciſe habit. I was ſoon after taken out to dance, and, as I fancied, by a woman of the firſt quality, for ſhe was very tall, and moved gracefully. As ſoon as the minuet was over, we ogled one another through our maſks; and as

I am

I am very well read in Waller, I repeated to her the four following verſes out of his poem to Vandike:

The heedleſs lover does not know,
Whoſe eyes they are that wound him ſo;
But confounded with thy art,
Inquires her name that has his heart.

I pronounced theſe words with ſuch a languiſhing air, that I had ſome reaſon to conclude I had made a conqueſt. She told me that ſhe hoped my face was not akin to my tongue; and looking upon her watch, I accidentally diſcovered the figure of a coronet on the back part of it. I was ſo tranſported with the thought of ſuch an amour, that I plied her from one room to another with all the gallantries I could invent; and at length brought things to ſo happy an iſſue, that ſhe gave me a private meeting the next day, without page or footman, coach or equipage. My heart danced in raptures, but I had not lived in this golden dream above three days before I found good reaſon to wiſh that I had continued true to my laundreſs. I have ſince heard, by a very great accident, that this fine lady does not live far from Covent Garden, and that I am not the firſt cully whom ſhe has paſſed herſelf upon for a counteſs.

Thus, Sir, you ſee how I have miſtaken a Cloud for a Juno; and if you can make any uſe of this adventure, for the benefit of thoſe who may poſſibly be as vain young coxcombs as myſelf, I do moſt heartily give you leave. I am, Sir, your moſt humble admirer,

B. L.

I deſign to viſit the next maſquerade myſelf, in the ſame habit I wore at Grand Cairo; and till then ſhall ſuſpend my judgment of this midnight entertainment. C

Nº IX. SATURDAY, MARCH 10.

——TIGRIS AGIT RABIDA CUM TIGRIDE PACEM
PERPETUAM, SÆVIS INTER SE CONVENIT URSIS.

JUV. SAT. XV. 163.

TIGER WITH TIGER, BEAR WITH BEAR, YOU'LL FIND
IN LEAGUES OFFENSIVE AND DEFENSIVE JOIN'D. TATE.

MAN is ſaid to be a ſociable animal; and, as an inſtance of it, we may obſerve, that we take all occaſions and pretences of forming ourſelves into thoſe little nocturnal aſſemblies, which are commonly known by the name of Clubs. When a ſet of men find themſelves agree in any particular, though never ſo trivial, they eſtabliſh themſelves into a kind of fraternity, and meet once or twice a week, upon the account of ſuch a fantaſtic reſemblance. I know a conſiderable market-town, in which there was a club of fat men, that did not come together, as you may well ſuppoſe, to entertain one another with ſprightlineſs and wit, but to keep one another in countenance; the room where the club met was ſomething of the largeſt, and had two entrances, the one by a door of a moderate ſize, and the other by a pair of folding doors. If a candidate for this corpulent club could make his entrance through the firſt, he was looked upon as unqualified; but if he ſtuck in the paſſage, and could not force his way through it, the folding-doors were immediately thrown open for his reception, and he was ſaluted as a brother. I have heard that this club, though it conſiſted but of fifteen perſons, weighed above three tun.

In oppoſition to this ſociety, there ſprung up another compoſed of ſcarecrows and ſkeletons, who being very meagre and envious, did all they could to thwart the deſigns of their bulky brethren, whom they repreſented as men of dangerous principles; till at length they worked them out of the favour of the people, and conſequently out of the magiſtracy. Theſe factions tore the corporation in pieces for ſeveral years, till at length they came to this accommodation; that the two bailiffs of the town ſhould be annually choſen out of the two clubs; by which means the principal magiſtrates are at this day coupled like rabbits, one fat and one lean.

Every one has heard of the club, or rather the confederacy of the Kings. This grand alliance was formed a little after

after the return of King Charles the Second, and admitted into it men of all qualities and profeſſions, provided they agreed in the ſurname of King, which, as they imagined, ſufficiently declared the owners of it to be altogether untainted with republican and antimonarchical principles.

A Chriſtian name has likewiſe been often uſed as a badge of diſtinction, and made the occaſion of a club. That of the George's, which uſed to meet at the ſign of the George on St. George's day, and ſwear before George, is ſtill freſh in every one's memory.

There are at preſent in ſeveral parts of this city what they call Street Clubs, in which the chief inhabitants of the ſtreet converſe together every night. I remember, upon my enquiring after lodgings in Ormond Street, the landlord, to recommend that quarter of the town, told me, there was at that time a very good club in it; he alſo told me, upon farther diſcourſe with him, that two or three noiſy country-ſquires, who were ſettled there the year before, had conſiderably ſunk the price of houſe-rent; and that the club (to prevent the like inconveniences for the future) had thoughts of taking every houſe that became vacant into their own hands, till they had found a tenant for it, of a ſociable nature, and good converſation.

The Hum-Drum Club, of which I was formerly an unworthy member, was made up of very honeſt gentlemen, of peaceable diſpoſitions, that uſed to ſit together, ſmoke their pipes, and ſay nothing till midnight. The Mum Club, as I am informed, is an inſtitution of the ſame nature, and as great an enemy to noiſe.

After theſe two innocent ſocieties, I cannot forbear mentioning a very miſchievous one, that was erected in the reign of King Charles the Second; I mean the Club of Duelliſts, in which none was to be admitted that had not fought his man. The preſident of it was ſaid to have killed half a dozen in ſingle combat; and as for the other members, they took their ſeats according to the number of their ſlain. There was likewiſe a ſide-table, for ſuch as had only drawn blood, and ſhewn a laudable ambition of taking the firſt opportunity to qualify themſelves for the firſt table. This club conſiſting only of men of honour, did not continue long, moſt of the members of it being put to the ſword, or hanged, a little after it's inſtitution.

Our modern celebrated clubs are founded upon eating and drinking, which are points wherein moſt men agree, and in which the learned and illiterate, the dull and the airy, the philoſopher and the buffoon, can all of them bear a part. The Kit-Cat itſelf is ſaid to have taken it's original from a mutton-pye. The Beaf-Steak, and October Clubs, are neither of them averſe to eating and drinking, if we may form a judgment of them from their reſpective titles.

When men are thus knit together by a love of ſociety, not a ſpirit of faction, and do not meet to cenſure or annoy thoſe that are abſent, but to enjoy one another; when they are thus combined for their own improvement, or for the good of others, or at leaſt to relax themſelves from the buſineſs of the day, by an innocent and chearful converſation, there may be ſomething very uſeful in theſe little inſtitutions and eſtabliſhments.

I cannot forbear concluding this paper with a ſcheme of laws that I met with upon a wall in a little alehouſe: how I came thither I may inform my reader at a more convenient time. Theſe laws were enacted by a knot of artiſans and mechanics, who uſed to meet every night; and as there is ſomething in them which gives us a pretty picture of low life, I ſhall tranſcribe them word for word.

RULES TO BE OBSERVED IN THE TWO-PENNY CLUB, ERECTED IN THIS PLACE, FOR THE PRESERVATION OF FRIENDSHIP AND GOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD.

I. EVERY member at his firſt coming in ſhall lay down his two-pence.

II. Every member ſhall fill his pipe out of his own box.

III. If any member abſents himſelf, he ſhall forfeit a penny for the uſe of the club, unleſs in caſe of ſickneſs or impriſonment.

IV. If any member ſwears or curſes, his neighbour may give him a kick upon the ſhins.

V. If any member tells ſtories in the club that are not true, he ſhall forfeit for every third lye an halfpenny.

VI. If

VI. If any member ſtrikes another wrongfully, he ſhall pay his club for him.

VII. If any member brings his wife into the club, he ſhall pay for whatever ſhe drinks or ſmokes.

VIII. If any member's wife comes to fetch him home from the club, ſhe ſhall ſpeak to him without the door.

IX. If any member calls another cuckold, he ſhall be turned out of the club.

X. None ſhall be admitted into the club that is of the ſame trade with any member of it.

XI. None of the club ſhall have his cloaths or ſhoes made or mended, but by a brother-member.

XII. No Non-juror ſhall be capable of being a member.

The morality of this little club is guarded by ſuch wholeſome laws and penalties, that I queſtion not but my reader will be as well pleaſed with them, as he would have been with the Leges Convivales of Ben Jonſon, the regulations of an old Roman club cited by Lipſius, or the rules of a Sympoſium in an ancient Greek author. C

N° X. MONDAY, MARCH 12.

NON ALITER QUAM QUI ADVERSO VIX FLUMINE LEMBUM
REMIGIIS SUBIGIT: SI BRACHIA FORTE REMISIT,
ATQUE ILLUM IN PRÆCEPS PRONO RAPIT ALVEUS AMNI.
VIRG. GEORG. I. VER. 201.

SO THE BOAT'S BRAWNY CREW THE CURRENT STEM,
AND, SLOW ADVANCING, STRUGGLE WITH THE STREAM:
BUT IF THEY SLACK THEIR HANDS, OR CEASE TO STRIVE,
THEN DOWN THE FLOOD WITH HEADLONG HASTE THEY DRIVE.
DRYDEN.

IT is with much ſatisfaction that I hear this great city enquiring day by day after theſe my papers, and receiving my morning lectures with a becoming ſerioufneſs and attention. My publiſher tells me, that there are already three thouſand of them diſtributed every day; ſo that if I allow twenty readers to every paper, which I look upon as a modeſt computation, I may reckon about three-ſcore thouſand diſciples in London and Weſtminſter, who I hope will take care to diſtinguiſh themſelves from the thoughtleſs herd of their ignorant and unattentive brethren. Since I have raiſed to myſelf ſo great an audience, I ſhall ſpare no pains to make their inſtruction agreeable, and their diverſion uſeful. For which reaſons I ſhall endeavour to enliven morality with wit, and to temper wit with morality, that my readers may, if poſſible, both ways find their account in the ſpeculation of the day. And to the end that their virtue and diſcretion may not be ſhort, tranſient, intermitting ſtarts of thought, I have reſolved to refreſh their memories from day to day, till I have recovered them out of that deſperate ſtate of vice and folly into which the age is fallen. The mind that lies fallow but a ſingle day, ſprouts up in follies that are only to be killed by a conſtant and aſſiduous culture. It was ſaid of Socrates, that he brought philoſophy down from Heaven, to inhabit among men; and I ſhall be ambitious to have it ſaid of me, that I have brought philoſophy out of cloſets and libraries, ſchools and colleges, to dwell in clubs and aſſemblies, at tea-tables and in coffee-houſes.

I would therefore in a very particular manner recommend theſe my ſpeculations to all well-regulated families, that ſet apart an hour in every morning for tea and bread and butter; and would earneſtly adviſe them for their good to order this paper to be punctually ſerved up, and to be looked upon as a part of the tea-equipage.

Sir Francis Bacon obſerves, that a well-written book, compared with it's rivals and antagoniſts, is like Moſes's ſerpent, that immediately ſwallowed up and devoured thoſe of the Ægyptians. I ſhall not be ſo vain as to think, that where the Spectator appears, the other public prints will vaniſh; but ſhall leave it to my readers conſideration, whether it is not much better to be let into the

knowledge of one's ſelf, than to hear what paſſes in Muſcovy or Poland; and to amuſe ourſelves with ſuch writings as tend to the wearing out of ignorance, paſſion, and prejudice, than ſuch as naturally conduce to inflame hatreds, and make enmities irreconcilable?

In the next place I would recommend this paper to the daily peruſal of thoſe gentlemen whom I cannot but conſider as my good brothers and allies, I mean the fraternity of ſpectators, who live in the world without having any thing to do in it; and either by the affluence of their fortunes, or lazineſs of their diſpoſitions, have no other buſineſs with the reſt of mankind, but to look upon them. Under this claſs of men are comprehended all contemplative Tradeſmen, titular Phyſicians, Fellows of the Royal Society, Templars that are not given to be contentious, and Stateſmen that are out of buſineſs; in ſhort, every one that conſiders the world as a theatre, and deſires to form a right judgment of thoſe who are the actors on it.

There is another ſet of men that I muſt likewiſe lay a claim to, whom I have lately called the Blanks of ſociety, as being altogether unfurniſhed with ideas, till the buſineſs and converſation of the day has ſupplied them. I have often conſidered theſe poor ſouls with an eye of great commiſeration, when I have heard them aſking the firſt man they have met with, whether there was any news ſtirring? and by that means gathering together materials for thinking. Theſe needy perſons do not know what to talk of, till about twelve o'clock in the morning; for by that time they are pretty good judges of the weather, know which way the wind ſits, and whether the Dutch mail be come in. As they lie at the mercy of the firſt man they meet, and are grave or impertinent all the day long, according to the notions which they have imbibed in the morning, I would earneſtly intreat them not to ſtir out of their chambers till they have read this paper, and do promiſe them that I will daily inſtil into them ſuch ſound and wholeſome ſentiments, as ſhall have a good effect on their converſation for the enſuing twelve hours.

But there are none to whom this paper will be more uſeful than to the female world. I have often thought there has not been ſufficient pains taken in finding out proper employments and diverſions for the fair ones. Their amuſements ſeem contrived for them, rather as they are women, than as they are reaſonable creatures; and are more adapted to the ſex than to the ſpecies. The toilet is their great ſcene of buſineſs, and the right adjuſting of their hair the principal employment of their lives. The ſorting of a ſuit of ribbons is reckoned a very good morning's work; and if they make an excurſion to a mercer's or a toy-ſhop, ſo great a fatigue makes them unfit for any thing elſe all the day after. Their more ſerious occupations are ſewing and embroidery, and their greateſt drudgery the preparation of jellies and ſweet-meats. This, I ſay, is the ſtate of ordinary women; though I know there are multitudes of thoſe of a more elevated life and converſation, that move in an exalted ſphere of knowledge and virtue, that join all the beauties of the mind to the ornaments of dreſs, and inſpire a kind of awe and reſpect, as well as love, into their male-beholders. I hope to increaſe the number of theſe by publiſhing this daily paper, which I ſhall always endeavour to make an innocent if not an improving entertainment, and by that means at leaſt divert the minds of my female readers from greater trifles. At the ſame time, as I would fain give ſome finiſhing touches to thoſe which are already the moſt beautiful pieces in human nature, I ſhall endeavour to point out all thoſe imperfections that are the blemiſhes, as well as thoſe virtues which are the embelliſhments, of the ſex. In the mean while I hope theſe my gentle readers, who have ſo much time on their hands, will not grudge throwing away a quarter of an hour in a day on this paper, ſince they may do it without any hindrance to buſineſs.

I know ſeveral of my friends and well-wiſhers are in great pain for me, leſt I ſhould not be able to keep up the ſpirit of a paper which I oblige myſelf to furniſh every day; but to make them eaſy in this particular, I will promiſe them faithfully to give it over as ſoon as I grow dull. This I know will be matter of great raillery to the ſmall wits; who will frequently put me in mind of my promiſe, deſire me to keep my word, aſſure me that it is high time to give over, with many other little pleaſantries

of

of the like nature, which men of a little ſmart genius cannot forbear throwing out againſt their beſt friends, when they have ſuch a handle given them of being witty. But let them remember that I do hereby enter my caveat againſt this piece of raillery. C

N° XI. TUESDAY, MARCH 13.

DAT VENIAM CORVIS, VEXAT CENSURA COLUMBAS.
JUV. SAT. II. VER. 63.

THE DOVES ARE CENSUR'D, WHILE THE CROWS ARE SPAR'D.

ARIETTA is viſited by all perſons of both ſexes, who have any pretence to wit and gallantry. She is in that time of life which is neither affected with the follies of youth, or infirmities of age; and her converſation is ſo mixed with gaiety and prudence, that ſhe is agreeable both to the young and old. Her behaviour is very frank, without being in the leaſt blameable; and as ſhe is out of the track of any amorous or ambitious purſuits of her own, her viſitants entertain her with accounts of themſelves very freely, whether they concern their paſſions or their intereſts. I made her a viſit this afternoon, having been formerly introduced to the honour of her acquaintance by my friend Will Honeycomb, who has prevailed upon her to admit me ſometimes into her aſſembly, as a civil inoffenſive man. I found her accompanied with one perſon only, a common-place talker, who, upon my entrance, aroſe, and after a very ſlight civility ſat down again; then turning to Arietta, purſued his diſcourſe, which I found was upon the old topic of conſtancy in love. He went on with great facility in repeating what he talks every day of his life; and with the ornaments of inſignificant laughs and geſtures, enforced his arguments by quotations out of plays and ſongs, which allude to the perjuries of the fair, and the general levity of women. Methought he ſtrove to ſhine more than ordinary in his talkative way, that he might inſult my ſilence, and diſtinguiſh himſelf before a woman of Arietta's taſte and underſtanding. She had often an inclination to interrupt him, but could find no opportunity, till the larum ceaſed of itſelf; which it did not till he had repeated and murdered the celebrated ſtory of the Epheſian matron.

Arietta ſeemed to regard this piece of raillery as an outrage done to her ſex, as indeed I have always obſerved that women, whether out of a nicer regard to their honour, or what other reaſon I cannot tell, are more ſenſibly touched with thoſe general aſperſions which are caſt upon their ſex, than men are by what is ſaid of theirs.

When ſhe had a little recovered herſelf from the ſerious anger ſhe was in, ſhe replied in the following manner.

'Sir, when I conſider how perfectly new all you have ſaid on this ſubject is, and that the ſtory you have given us is not quite two thouſand years old, I cannot but think it a piece of preſumption to diſpute with you; but your quotations put me in mind of the fable of the Lion and the Man. The man walking with that noble animal, ſhewed him, in the oſtentation of human ſuperiority, a ſign of a man killing a lion. Upon which the lion ſaid very juſtly—"We "lions are none of us painters, elſe we "could ſhew a hundred men killed by "lions, for one lion killed by a man." You men are writers, and can repreſent us women as unbecoming as you pleaſe in your works, while we are unable to return the injury. You have twice or thrice obſerved in your diſcourſe, that hypocriſy is the very foundation of our education; and that an ability to diſſemble our affections is a profeſſed part of our breeding. Theſe, and ſuch other reflections, are ſprinkled up and down the writings of all ages, by authors, who leave behind them memorials of their reſentment againſt the ſcorns of particular women, in invectives againſt the whole ſex. Such a writer, I doubt not, was the celebrated Petronius, who invented the pleaſant aggravations of the frailty

'of the Epheſian lady; but when we 'conſider this queſtion between the 'ſexes, which has been either a point 'of diſpute or raillery ever ſince there 'were men and women, let us take 'facts from plain people, and from 'ſuch as have not either ambition or 'capacity to embelliſh their narrations 'with any beauties of imagination. I 'was the other day amuſing myſelf with 'Ligon's account of Barbadoes; and 'in anſwer to your well-wrought tale, 'I will give you, (as it dwells upon my 'memory) out of that honeſt traveller, 'in his fifty-fifth page, the hiſtory of 'Inkle and Yarico.

'Mr. Thomas Inkle, of London, 'aged twenty years, embarked in the 'Downs on the good ſhip called the 'Achilles, bound for the Weſt Indies, 'on the 16th of June, 1647, in order 'to improve his fortune by trade and 'merchandiſe. Our adventurer was 'the third ſon of an eminent citizen, 'who had taken particular care to inſtil 'into his mind an early love of gain, 'by making him a perfect maſter of 'numbers, and conſequently giving 'him a quick view of loſs and advan-'tage, and preventing the natural im-'pulſes of his paſſions, by prepoſſeſſion 'towards his intereſts. With a mind 'thus turned, young Inkle had a per-'ſon every way agreeable, a ruddy vi-'gour in his countenance, ſtrength in his 'limbs, with ringlets of fair hair looſely 'flowing on his ſhoulders. It happen-'ed, in the courſe of the voyage, that 'the Achilles, in ſome diſtreſs, put 'into a creek on the main of America, 'in ſearch of proviſions. The youth, 'who is the hero of my ſtory, among 'others went aſhore on this occaſion. 'From their firſt landing they were ob-'ſerved by a party of Indians, who hid 'themſelves in the woods for that pur-'poſe. The Engliſh unadviſedly march-'ed a great diſtance from the ſhore into 'the country, and were intercepted by 'the natives, who ſlew the greateſt 'number of them. Our adventurer 'eſcaped among others, by flying into 'a foreſt. Upon his coming into a re-'mote and pathleſs part of the wood, 'he threw himſelf, tired, and breath-'leſs, on a little hillock, when an In-'dian maid ruſhed from a thicket be-'hind him. After the firſt ſurprize, 'they appeared mutually agreeable to 'each other. If the European was 'highly charmed with the limbs, fea-'tures, and wild graces of the naked 'American; the American was no leſs 'taken with the dreſs, complexion, and 'ſhape of an European, covered from 'head to foot. The Indian grew im-'mediately enamoured of him, and 'conſequently ſolicitous for his preſer-'vation. She therefore conveyed him 'to a cave, where ſhe gave him a de-'licious repaſt of fruits, and led him to 'a ſtream to ſlake his thirſt. In the 'midſt of theſe good offices, ſhe would 'ſometimes play with his hair, and de-'light in the oppoſition of it's colour 'to that of her fingers; then open his 'boſom, then laugh at him for cover-'ing it. She was, it ſeems, a perſon 'of diſtinction, for ſhe every day came 'to him in a different dreſs, of the moſt 'beautiful ſhells, bugles, and bredes. 'She likewiſe brought him a great 'many ſpoils, which her other lovers 'had preſented to her, ſo that his cave 'was richly adorned with all the ſpotted 'ſkins of beaſts, and moſt party-co-'loured feathers of fowls, which that 'world afforded. To make his con-'finement more tolerable, ſhe would 'carry him in the duſk of the evening, 'or by the favour of the moon-light, 'to unfrequented groves and ſolitudes, 'and ſhew him where to lie down in 'ſafety, and ſleep amidſt the falls of 'waters, and melody of nightingales. 'Her part was to watch and hold him 'awake in her arms, for fear of her 'countrymen, and awake him on oc-'caſions to conſult his ſafety. In this 'manner did the lovers paſs away their 'time, till they had learned a language 'of their own, in which the voyager 'communicated to his miſtreſs, how 'happy he ſhould be to have her in his 'own country, where ſhe ſhould be 'clothed in ſuch ſilks as his waiſtcoat 'was made of, and be carried in houſes 'drawn by horſes, without being ex-'poſed to wind and weather. All this 'he promiſed her the enjoyment of, 'without ſuch fears and alarms as they 'were tormented with. In this tender 'correſpondence theſe lovers lived for 'ſeveral months, when Yarico, in-'ſtructed by her lover, diſcovered a 'veſſel on the coaſt, to which ſhe made 'ſignals; and in the night, with the 'utmoſt joy and ſatisfaction, accompa-'nied him to a ſhip's crew of his coun-'trymen, bound for Barbadoes. When

'a veſſel

'a veſſel from the main arrives in that 'iſland, it ſeems the planters come 'down to the ſhore, where there is an 'immediate market of the Indians and 'other ſlaves, as with us of horſes and 'oxen.

'To be ſhort, Mr. Thomas Inkle, 'now coming into Engliſh territories, 'began ſeriouſly to reflect upon his loſs 'of time, and to weigh with himſelf 'how many days intereſt of his money 'he had loſt during his ſtay with Yarico. 'This thought made the young man 'very penſive, and careful what account 'he ſhould be able to give his friends of 'his voyage. Upon which conſidera- 'tion, the prudent and frugal young 'man ſold Yarico to a Barbadian mer- 'chant; notwithſtanding the poor girl, 'to commiſerate her condition, told him 'that ſhe was with child by him; but 'he only made uſe of that information 'to riſe in his demands upon the pur- 'chaſer.'

I was ſo touched with this ſtory (which I think ſhould be always a counterpart to the Epheſian matron) that I left the room with tears in my eyes; which a woman of Arietta's good ſenſe did, I am ſure, take for greater applauſe, than any compliments I could make her. R

N° XII. WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14.

——VETERES AVIAS TIBI DE PULMONE REVELLO.

PERS. SAT. v. 92.

I ROOT THE OLD WOMAN FROM MY TREMBLING HEART.

AT my coming to London, it was ſome time before I could ſettle myſelf in a houſe to my liking. I was forced to quit my firſt lodgings, by reaſon of an officious landlady, that would be aſking me every morning how I had ſlept. I then fell into an honeſt family, and lived very happily for above a week; when my landlord, who was a jolly good-natured man, took it into his head that I wanted company, and therefore would frequently come into my chamber to keep me from being alone. This I bore for two or three days; but telling me one day that he was afraid I was melancholy, I thought it was high time for me to be gone, and accordingly took new lodgings that very night. About a week after, I found my jolly landlord, who, as I ſaid before, was an honeſt hearty man, had put me into an advertiſement of the Daily Courant, in the following words: 'Whereas a melancholy man left his 'lodgings on Thurſday laſt in the af- 'ternoon, and was afterwards ſeen go- 'ing towards Iſlington; if any one can 'give notice of him to R. B. fiſhmonger 'in the Strand, he ſhall be very well 'rewarded for his pains.' As I am the beſt man in the world to keep my own counſel, and my landlord the fiſhmonger not knowing my name, this accident of my life was never diſcovered to this very day.

I am now ſettled with a widow woman, who has a great many children, and complies with my humour in every thing. I do not remember that we have exchanged a word together theſe five years; my coffee comes into my chamber every morning without aſking for it; if I want fire, I point to my chimney; if water, to my baſon; upon which my landlady nods, as much as to ſay ſhe takes my meaning, and immediately obeys my ſignals. She has likewiſe modelled her family ſo well, that when her little boy offers to pull me by the coat, or prattle in my face, his eldeſt ſiſter immediately calls him off, and bids him not diſturb the gentleman. At my firſt entering into the family, I was troubled with the civility of their riſing up to me every time I came into the room; but my landlady obſerving that upon theſe occaſions I always cried Piſh, and went out again, has forbidden any ſuch ceremony to be uſed in the houſe; ſo that at preſent I walk into the kitchen or parlour without being taken notice of, or giving any interruption to the buſineſs or diſcourſe of the family. The maid will aſk her miſtreſs, though I am by, whether the gentleman is ready to go to dinner, as the miſtreſs (who is indeed an excellent houſewife) ſcolds at the ſervants as heartily before my face as behind my back. In ſhort, I move up and down the houſe, and enter into all companies with the ſame liberty as a cat,

cat, or any other domeſtic animal, and am as little ſuſpected of telling any thing that I hear or ſee.

I remember laſt winter there were ſeveral young girls of the neighbourhood ſitting about the fire with my landlady's daughters, and telling ſtories of ſpirits and apparitions. Upon my opening the door, the young women broke off their diſcourſe; but my landlady's daughters telling them that it was nobody but the gentleman, (for that is the name which I go by in the neighbourhood, as well as in the family) they went on without minding me. I ſeated myſelf by the candle that ſtood on a table at one end of the room; and pretending to read a book that I took out of my pocket, heard ſeveral dreadful ſtories of ghoſts as pale as aſhes that had ſtood at the feet of a bed, or walked over a church-yard by moon-light; and of others that had been conjured into the Red Sea, for diſturbing people's reſt, and drawing their curtains at midnight; with many other old women's fables of the like nature. As one ſpirit raiſed another, I obſerved that at the end of every ſtory the whole company cloſed their ranks, and crouded about the fire. I took notice in particular of a little boy, who was ſo attentive to every ſtory, that I am miſtaken if he ventures to go to bed by himſelf this twelvemonth. Indeed they talked ſo long, that the imaginations of the whole aſſembly were manifeſtly crazed, and, I am ſure, will be the worſe for it as long as they live. I heard one of the girls, that had looked upon me over her ſhoulder, aſking the company how long I had been in the room, and whether I did not look paler than I uſed to do. This put me under ſome apprehenſions that I ſhould be forced to explain myſelf if I did not retire; for which reaſon I took the candle in my hand, and went up into my chamber, not without wondering at this unaccountable weakneſs in reaſonable creatures, that they ſhould love to aſtoniſh and terrify one another. Were I a father, I ſhould take a particular care to preſerve my children from theſe little horrors of imagination, which they are apt to contract when they are young, and are not able to ſhake off when they are in years. I have known a ſoldier that has entered a breach, affrighted at his own ſhadow, and look pale upon a little ſcratching at his door, who the day before had marched up againſt a battery of cannon. There are inſtances of perſons, who have been terrified even to diſtraction, at the figure of a tree, or the ſhaking of a bullruſh. The truth of it is, I look upon a ſound imagination as the greateſt bleſſing of life, next to a clear judgment and a good conſcience. In the mean time, ſince there are very few whoſe minds are not more or leſs ſubject to theſe dreadful thoughts and apprehenſions, we ought to arm ourſelves againſt them by the dictates of reaſon and religion, 'to pull the old 'woman out of our hearts,' (as Perſius expreſſes it in the motto of my paper) and extinguiſh thoſe impertinent notions which we imbibed at a time that we were not able to judge of their abſurdity. Or if we believe, as many wiſe and good men have done, that there are ſuch phantoms and apparitions as thoſe I have been ſpeaking of, let us endeavour to eſtabliſh to ourſelves an intereſt in Him who holds the reins of the whole creation in his hand, and moderates them after ſuch a manner, that it is impoſſible for one being to break looſe upon another without his knowledge and permiſſion.

For my own part, I am apt to join in opinion with thoſe who believe that all the regions of nature ſwarm with ſpirits; and that we have multitudes of ſpectators on all our actions, when we think ourſelves moſt alone; but, inſtead of terrifying myſelf with ſuch a notion, I am wonderfully pleaſed to think that I am always engaged with ſuch an innumerable ſociety, in ſearching out the wonders of the creation, and joining in the ſame conſort of praiſe and adoration.

Milton has finely deſcribed this mixed communion of men and ſpirits in paradiſe; and had doubtleſs his eye upon a verſe in old Heſiod, which is almoſt word for word the ſame with his third line in the following paſſage:

——Nor think, though men were none,
That Heav'n would want ſpectators, God want praiſe:
Millions of ſpiritual creatures walk the earth
Unſeen, both when we wake and when we ſleep:
All theſe with ceaſeleſs praiſe his works behold
Both day and night. How often from the ſteep
Of echoing hill or thicket have we heard
Celeſtial voices to the midnight air,

Sole

Sole, or reſponſive each to other's note,
Singing their great Creator? Oft in bands
While they keep watch, or nightly rounding walk,
With heav'nly touch of inſtrumental ſounds,
In full harmonic number join'd, their ſongs
Divide the night and lift our thoughts to heav'n.

C

Nº XIII. THURSDAY, MARCH 15.

DIC MIHI, SI FIAS TU LEO, QUALIS ERIS? MART.

WERE YOU A LION, HOW WOULD YOU BEHAVE?

THERE is nothing that of late years has afforded matter of greater amuſement to the town than Signior Nicolini's combat with a Lion in the Hay-market, which has been very often exhibited, to the general ſatisfaction of moſt of the nobility and gentry in the kingdom of Great Britain. Upon the firſt rumour of this intended combat, it was confidently affirmed, and is ſtill believed by many in both galleries, that there would be a tame lion ſent from the Tower every opera night, in order to be killed by Hydaſpes. This report, though altogether groundleſs, ſo univerſally prevailed in the upper regions of the playhouſe, that ſome of the moſt refined politicians in thoſe parts of the audience gave it out in whiſper, that the Lion was a couſin-german of the Tiger who made his appearance in King William's days, and that the ſtage would be ſupplied with lions at the public expence, during the whole ſeſſion. Many likewiſe were the conjectures of the treatment which this Lion was to meet with from the hands of Signior Nicolini: ſome ſuppoſed that he was to ſubdue him in recitativo, as Orpheus uſed to ſerve the wild beaſts in his time, and afterwards to knock him on the head; ſome fancied that the Lion would not pretend to lay his paws upon the hero, by reaſon of the received opinion, that a Lion will not hurt a Virgin: ſeveral, who pretended to have ſeen the opera in Italy, had informed their friends, that the Lion was to act a part in High-Dutch, and roar twice or thrice to a thorough-baſs, before he fell at the feet of Hydaſpes. To clear up a matter that was ſo variouſly reported, I have made it my buſineſs to examine whether this pretended Lion is really the ſavage he appears to be, or only a counterfeit.

But before I communicate my diſcoveries, I muſt acquaint the reader, that upon my walking behind the ſcenes laſt winter, as I was thinking on ſomething elſe, I accidentally juſtled againſt a monſtrous animal that extremely ſtartled me, and, upon my nearer ſurvey of it, appeared to be a Lion rampant. The Lion, ſeeing me very much ſurprized, told me, in a gentle voice, that I might come by him if I pleaſed; 'For,' ſays he, 'I do not intend to hurt any body.' I thanked him very kindly, and paſſed by him; and in a little time after ſaw him leap upon the ſtage, and act his part with very great applauſe. It has been obſerved by ſeveral, that the Lion has changed his manner of acting twice or thrice ſince his firſt appearance; which will not ſeem ſtrange, when I acquaint my reader that the Lion has been changed upon the audience three ſeveral times. The firſt Lion was a Candle-ſnuffer, who being a fellow of a teſty choleric temper, overdid his part, and would not ſuffer himſelf to be killed ſo eaſily as he ought to have done; beſides, it was obſerved of him, that he grew more ſurly every time he came out of the Lion; and having dropt ſome words in ordinary converſation, as if he had not fought his beſt, and that he ſuffered himſelf to be thrown upon his back in the ſcuffle, and that he would wreſtle with Mr. Nicolini for what he pleaſed, out of his Lion's ſkin, it was thought proper to diſcard him; and it is verily believed, to this day, that had he been brought upon the ſtage another time, he would certainly have done miſchief. Beſides, it was objected againſt the firſt Lion, that he reared himſelf ſo high upon his hinder paws, and walked in ſo erect a poſture, that he looked more like an old Man than a Lion.

The ſecond Lion was a Taylor by trade, who belonged to the playhouſe, and had the character of a mild and peaceable man in his profeſſion. If the former was too furious, this was too ſheepiſh, for his part; inſomuch that, after

after a ſhort modeſt walk upon the ſtage, he would fall at the firſt touch of Hydaſpes, without grappling with him, and giving him an opportunity of ſhewing his variety of Italian trips: it is ſaid indeed, that he once gave him a rip in his fleſh-coloured doublet; but this was only to make work for himſelf, in his private character of a Taylor. I muſt not omit that it was this ſecond Lion who treated me with ſo much humanity behind the ſcenes.

The acting Lion at preſent is, as I am informed, a Country Gentleman, who does it for his diverſion, but deſires his name may be concealed. He ſays very handſomely, in his own excuſe, that he does not act for gain; that he indulges an innocent pleaſure in it; and that it is better to paſs away an evening in this manner, than in gaming and drinking; but at the ſame time ſays, with a very agreeable raillery upon himſelf, that if his name ſhould be known, the ill-natured world might call him the Aſs in the Lion's ſkin. This gentleman's temper is made of ſuch a happy mixture of the mild and the choleric, that he outdoes both his predeceſſors, and has drawn together greater audiences than have been known in the memory of man.

I muſt not conclude my narrative, without taking notice of a groundleſs report that has been raiſed, to a gentleman's diſadvantage, of whom I muſt declare myſelf an admirer; namely, that Signior Nicolini and the Lion have been ſeen fitting peaceably by one another, and ſmoking a pipe together behind the ſcenes; by which their common enemies would inſinuate, that it is but a ſham combat which they repreſent upon the ſtage; but upon enquiry I find, that if any ſuch correſpondence has paſſed between them, it was not till the combat was over, when the Lion was to be looked upon as dead, according to the received rules of the drama. Beſides, this is what is practiſed every day in Weſtminſter Hall, where nothing is more uſual than to ſee a couple of lawyers, who have been tearing each other to pieces in the court, embracing one another as ſoon as they are out of it.

I would not be thought, in any part of this relation, to reflect upon Signior Nicolini, who in acting this part only complies with the wretched taſte of his audience; he knows very well, that the Lion has many more admirers than himſelf, as they ſay of the famous equeſtrian ſtatue on the Pont-Neuf at Paris, that more people go to ſee the horſe, than the king who ſits upon it. On the contrary, it gives me a juſt indignation to ſee a perſon whoſe action gives new majeſty to kings, reſolution to heroes, and ſoftneſs to lovers, thus ſinking from the greatneſs of his behaviour, and degraded into the character of the London 'Prentice. I have often wiſhed, that our tragedians would copy after this great maſter in action. Could they make the ſame uſe of their arms and legs, and inform their faces with as ſignificant looks and paſſions, how glorious would an Engliſh tragedy appear with that action, which is capable of giving a dignity to the forced thoughts, cold conceits, and unnatural expreſſions of an Italian opera! In the mean time, I have related this combat of the Lion, to ſhew what are at preſent the reigning entertainments of the politer part of Great Britain.

Audiences have often been reproached by writers for the coarſeneſs of their taſte; but our preſent grievance does not ſeem to be the want of a good taſte, but of common ſenſe.

C

Nº XIV. FRIDAY, MARCH 16.

——TEQUE HIS, INFELIX, EXUE MONSTRIS,

OVID. MET. L. 4. VER. 590.

WRETCH THAT THOU ART! PUT OFF THIS MONSTROUS SHAPE.

I Was reflecting this morning upon the ſpirit and humour of the public diverſions five and twenty years ago, and thoſe of the preſent time; and lamented to myſelf, that, though in thoſe days they neglected their morality, they kept up their good ſenſe; but that the Beau Monde, at preſent, is only grown more childiſh, not more innocent, than the former. While I was in this train of thought,

R. Smirke del. Angus sculp.

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thought, an odd fellow, whoſe face I have often ſeen at the play-houſe, gave me the following letter with theſe words, 'Sir, the Lion preſents his humble ſervice to you, and deſired me to give this into your own hands.'

FROM MY DEN IN THE HAYMARKET, MARCH 15.

SIR,

I Have read all your papers, and have ſtifled my reſentment againſt your reflections upon operas, till that of this day, wherein you plainly inſinuate, that Signior Grimaldi and myſelf have a correſpondence more friendly than is conſiſtent with the valour of his character, or the fierceneſs of mine. I deſire you would for your own ſake forbear ſuch intimations for the future; and muſt ſay it is a great piece of ill-nature in you, to ſhew ſo great an eſteem for a foreigner, and to diſcourage a Lion that is your own countryman.

I take notice of your fable of the Lion and Man, but am ſo equally concerned in that matter, that I ſhall not be offended to whichſoever of the animals the ſuperiority is given. You have miſrepreſented me, in ſaying that I am a country gentleman, who act only for my diverſion; whereas, had I ſtill the ſame woods to range in which I once had when I was a fox-hunter, I ſhould not reſign my manhood for a maintenance; and aſſure you, as low as my circumſtances are at preſent, I am ſo much a man of honour, that I would ſcorn to be any beaſt for bread but a Lion.

Yours, &c.

I had no ſooner ended this, than one of my landlady's children brought me in ſeveral others, with ſome of which I ſhall make up my preſent paper, they all having a tendency to the ſame ſubject, viz. the elegance of our preſent diverſions.

SIR, COVENT GARDEN, MAR. 13.

I Have been for twenty years under-ſexton of this pariſh of St. Paul's Covent Garden, and have not miſſed tolling in to prayers ſix times in all thoſe years; which office I have performed to my great ſatisfaction, till this fortnight laſt paſt, during which time I find my congregation take the warning of my bell, morning and evening, to go to a puppet-ſhow ſet forth by one Powell under the Piazzas. By this means, I have not only loſt my two cuſtomers, whom I uſed to place for ſixpence a-piece over-againſt Mrs. Rachel Eyebright, but Mrs. Rachel herſelf is gone thither alſo. There now appear among us none but a few ordinary people, who come to church only to ſay their prayers, ſo that I have no work worth ſpeaking of but on Sundays. I have placed my ſon at the Piazzas, to acquaint the ladies that the bell rings for church, and that it ſtands on the other ſide of the garden; but they only laugh at the child.

I deſire you would lay this before all the world, that I may not be made ſuch a tool for the future, and that Punchinello may chooſe hours leſs canonical. As things are now, Mr. Powell has a full congregation, while we have a very thin houſe; which if you can remedy, you will very much oblige, Sir,

Yours, &c.

The following epiſtle I find is from the undertaker of the Maſquerade.

SIR,

I Have obſerved the rules of my maſque ſo carefully (in not inquiring into perſons,) that I cannot tell whether you were one of the company or not laſt Tueſday; but if you were not, and ſtill deſign to come, I deſire you would, for your own entertainment, pleaſe to admoniſh the town, that all perſons indifferently are not fit for this ſort of diverſion. I could wiſh, Sir, you could make them underſtand, that it is a kind of acting to go in maſquerade, and a man ſhould be able to ſay or do things proper for the dreſs, in which he appears. We have now and then rakes in the habit of Roman ſenators, and grave politicians in the dreſs of rakes. The misfortune of the thing is, that people dreſs themſelves in what they have a mind to be, and not what they are fit for. There is not a girl in the town, but let her have her will in going to a maſque, and ſhe ſhall dreſs as a ſhepherdeſs. But let me beg of them to read the Arcadia, or ſome other good romance, before they appear in any ſuch character at my houſe. The laſt day we preſented, every body was ſo raſhly habited, that when they came to ſpeak to each other, a nymph with a crook had not a word to ſay but in the pert ſtile of the pit bawdry; and a man in the habit of a philoſopher was

ſpeechleſs, till an occaſion offered of expreſſing himſelf in the refuſe of the tyring-rooms. We had a judge that danced a minuet with a Quaker for his partner, while half a dozen harlequins ſtood by as ſpectators; a Turk drank me off two bottles of wine, and a Jew eat me up half a ham of bacon. If I can bring my deſign to bear, and make the maſquers preſerve their characters in my aſſemblies, I hope you will allow there is a foundation laid for more elegant and improving gallantries than any the town at preſent affords; and conſequently, that you will give your approbation to the endeavours of, Sir,

Your moſt obedient humble ſervant.

I am very glad the following epiſtle obliges me to mention Mr. Powell a ſecond time in the ſame paper; for indeed there cannot be too great encouragement given to his ſkill in motions, provided he is under proper reſtrictions.

SIR,

THE Opera at the Hay-market, and that under the Little Piazza in Covent Garden, being at preſent the two leading diverſions of the town, and Mr. Powell profeſſing in his advertiſements to ſet up Whittington and his Cat againſt Rinaldo and Armida, my curioſity led me the beginning of laſt week to view both theſe performances, and make my obſervations upon them.

Firſt therefore, I cannot but obſerve that Mr. Powell wiſely forbearing to give his company a bill of fare beforehand, every ſcene is new and unexpected; whereas it is certain, that the undertakers of the Haymarket, having raiſed too great an expectation in their printed opera, very much diſappoint the audience on the ſtage.

The King of Jeruſalem is obliged to come from the city on foot, inſtead of being drawn in a triumphant chariot by white horſes, as my opera-book had promiſed me; and thus while I expected Armida's dragons ſhould ruſh forward towards Argantes, I found the hero was obliged to go to Armida, and hand her out of her coach. We had alſo but a very ſhort allowance of thunder and lightning; though I cannot in this place omit doing juſtice to the boy who had the direction of the two painted dragons, and made them ſpit fire and ſmoke; he flaſhed out his roſin in ſuch juſt proportions and in ſuch due time, that I could not forbear conceiving hopes of his being one day a moſt excellent player. I ſaw indeed but two things wanting to render his whole action compleat, I mean the keeping his head a little lower, and hiding his candle.

I obſerve that Mr. Powell and the undertakers had both the ſame thought, and I think much about the ſame time, of introducing animals on their ſeveral ſtages, though indeed with very different ſucceſs. The Sparrows and Chaffinches at the Haymarket fly as yet very irregularly over the ſtage; and inſtead of perching on the trees and performing their parts, theſe young actors either get into the galleries, or put out the candles; whereas Mr. Powell has ſo well diſciplined his Pig, that in the firſt ſcene he and Punch dance a minuet together. I am informed however, that Mr. Powell reſolves to excel his adverſaries in their own way; and introduce Larks in his next opera of Suſanna, or Innocence Betrayed, which will be exhibited next week with a pair of new Elders.

The moral of Mr. Powell's drama is violated, I confeſs, by Punch's national reflections on the French, and King Harry's laying his leg upon the Queen's lap in too ludicrous a manner before ſo great an aſſembly.

As to the mechaniſm and ſcenery, every thing indeed was uniform and of a piece, and the ſcenes were managed very dextrouſly; which calls on me to take notice, that at the Haymarket the undertakers forgetting to change their ſide-ſcenes, we were preſented with a proſpect of the ocean in the midſt of a delightful grove; and though the gentlemen on the ſtage had very much contributed to the beauty of the grove, by walking up and down between the trees, I muſt own I was not a little aſtoniſhed to ſee a well-dreſſed young fellow, in a full-bottomed wig, appear in the midſt of the ſea, and without any viſible concern taking ſnuff.

I ſhall only obſerve one thing farther, in which both dramas agree; which is, that by the ſqueak of their voices the heroes of each are eunuchs; and as the wit in both pieces is equal, I muſt prefer the performance of Mr. Powell, becauſe it is in our own language. I am, &c. R

Nº XV. SATURDAY, MARCH 17.

PARVA LEVES CAPIUNT ANIMOS——

OVID. ARS AM. I. 159.

LIGHT MINDS ARE PLEAS'D WITH TRIFLES.

WHEN I was in France, I uſed to gaze with great aſtoniſhment at the ſplendid equipages, and party-coloured habits, of that fantaſtic nation. I was one day in particular contemplating a lady, that ſat in a coach adorned with gilded Cupids, and finely painted with the loves of Venus and Adonis. The coach was drawn by ſix milk-white horſes, and loaden behind with the ſame number of powdered footmen. Juſt before the lady were a couple of beautiful pages that were ſtuck among the harneſs, and by their gay dreſſes and ſmiling features, looked like the elder brothers of the little boys that were carved and painted in every corner of the coach.

The lady was the unfortunate Cleanthe, who afterwards gave an occaſion to a pretty melancholy novel. She had for ſeveral years received the addreſſes of a gentleman, whom after a long and intimate acquaintance ſhe forſook, upon the account of this ſhining equipage, which had been offered to her by one of great riches but a crazy conſtitution. The circumſtances in which I ſaw her, were, it ſeems, the diſguiſes only of a broken heart, and a kind of pageantry to cover diſtreſs; for in two months after ſhe was carried to her grave with the ſame pomp and magnificence; being ſent thither partly by the loſs of one lover, and partly by the poſſeſſion of another.

I have often reflected with myſelf on this unaccountable humour of womankind, of being ſmitten with every thing that is ſhowy and ſuperficial; and on the numberleſs evils that befal the ſex from this light fantaſtical diſpoſition. I myſelf remember a young lady, that was very warmly ſolicited by a couple of importunate rivals, who, for ſeveral months together, did all they could to recommend themſelves by complacency of behaviour, and agreeableneſs of converſation. At length, when the competition was doubtful, and the lady undetermined in her choice, one of the young lovers luckily bethought himſelf of adding a ſupernumerary lace to his liveries, which had ſo good an effect that he married her the very week after.

The uſual converſation of ordinary women very much cheriſhes this natural weakneſs of being taken with outſide and appearance. Talk of a new-married couple, and you immediately hear whether they keep their coach and ſix, or eat in plate; mention the name of an abſent lady, and it is ten to one but you learn ſomething of her gown and petticoat. A ball is a great help to diſcourſe, and a birth-day furniſhes converſation for a twelvemonth after. A furbelow of precious ſtones, an hat buttoned with a diamond, a brocade waiſtcoat or petticoat, are ſtanding topics. In ſhort, they conſider only the drapery of the ſpecies, and never caſt away a thought on thoſe ornaments of the mind that make perſons illuſtrious in themſelves and uſeful to others. When women are thus perpetually dazzling one another's imaginations, and filling their heads with nothing but colours, it is no wonder that they are more attentive to the ſuperficial parts of life than the ſolid and ſubſtantial bleſſings of it. A girl who has been trained up in this kind of converſation, is in danger of every embroidered coat that comes in her way. A pair of fringed gloves may be her ruin. In a word, lace and ribbons, ſilver and gold galloons, with the like glittering gewgaws, are ſo many lures to women of weak minds or low educations, and when artificially diſplayed, are able to fetch down the moſt airy coquette from the wildeſt of her flights and rambles.

True happineſs is of a retired nature, and an enemy to pomp and noiſe; it ariſes, in the firſt place, from the enjoyment of one's ſelf; and, in the next, from the friendſhip and converſation of a few ſelect companions; it loves ſhade and ſolitude, and naturally haunts groves and fountains, fields and meadows: in ſhort, it feels every thing it wants with-

in itſelf, and receives no addition from multitudes of witneſſes and ſpectators. On the contrary, falſe happineſs loves to be in a crowd, and to draw the eyes of the world upon her. She does not receive any ſatisfaction from the applauſes which ſhe gives herſelf, but from the admiration which ſhe raiſes in others. She flouriſhes in courts and palaces, theatres and aſſemblies, and has no exiſtence but when ſhe is looked upon.

Aurelia, though a woman of great quality, delights in the privacy of a country life, and paſſes away a great part of her time in her own walks and gardens. Her huſband, who is her boſom friend and companion in her ſolitudes, has been in love with her ever ſince he knew her. They both abound with good ſenſe, conſummate virtue, and a mutual eſteem; and are a perpetual entertainment to one another. Their family is under ſo regular an œconomy, in it's hours of devotion and repaſt, employment and diverſion, that it looks like a little commonwealth within itſelf. They often go into company, that they may return with the greater delight to one another; and ſometimes live in town, not to enjoy it ſo properly as to grow weary of it, that they may renew in themſelves the reliſh of a country life. By this means they are happy in each other, beloved by their children, adored by their ſervants, and are become the envy, or rather the delight, of all that know them.

How different to this is the life of Fulvia! ſhe conſiders her huſband as her ſteward, and looks upon diſcretion and good houſewifery as little domeſtic virtues, unbecoming a woman of quality. She thinks life loſt in her own family, and fancies herſelf out of the world when ſhe is not in the ring, the playhouſe, or the drawing-room; ſhe lives in a perpetual motion of body, and reſtleſſneſs of thought, and is never eaſy in any one place, when ſhe thinks there is more company in another. The miſſing of an opera the firſt night would be more afflicting to her than the death of a child. She pities all the valuable part of her own ſex, and calls every woman of a prudent, modeſt, and retired life, a poor-ſpirited unpoliſhed creature. What a mortification would it be to Fulvia, if ſhe knew that her ſetting herſelf to view is but expoſing herſelf, and that ſhe grows contemptible by being conſpicuous!

I cannot conclude my paper, without obſerving, that Virgil has very finely touched upon this female paſſion for dreſs and ſhow, in the character of Camilla; who, though ſhe ſeems to have ſhaken off all the other weakneſſes of her ſex, is ſtill deſcribed as a woman in this particular. The poet tells us, that, after having made a great ſlaughter of the enemy, ſhe unfortunately caſt her eye on a Trojan, who wore an embroidered tunic, a beautiful coat of mail, with a mantle of the fineſt purple. 'A golden 'bow,' ſays he, 'hung upon his ſhoulder; 'his garment was buckled with a gold-'en claſp; and his head was covered with 'an helmet of the ſame ſhining metal.' The Amazon immediately ſingled out this well-dreſſed warrior, being ſeized with a woman's longing for the pretty trappings that he was adorned with—

—Totumque incauta per agmen
Fœmineo prædæ et ſpoliorum ardebat amore.
ÆN. II. VER. 782.

This heedleſs purſuit after theſe glittering trifles, the poet (by a nice concealed moral) repreſents to have been the deſtruction of his female hero.

C

Nº XVI. MONDAY, MARCH 19.

QUOD VERUM ATQUE DECENS CURO ET ROGO, ET OMNIS IN HOC SUM.
HOR. I. EP. V. 12.

WHAT RIGHT, WHAT TRUE, WHAT FIT WE JUSTLY CALL,
LET THIS BE ALL MY CARE—FOR THIS IS ALL. POPE.

I Have received a letter, deſiring me to be very ſatirical upon the little Muff that is now in faſhion; another informs me of a pair of ſilver Garters buckled below the knee, that have been lately ſeen at the Rainbow Coffee-houſe in Fleet Street; a third ſends me an heavy complaint againſt fringed Gloves. To be brief, there is ſcarce an ornament of either ſex which one or other

of

of my correſpondents has not inveighed againſt with ſome bitterneſs, and recommended to my obſervation. I muſt therefore, once for all, inform my readers, that it is not my intention to ſink the dignity of this my paper with reflections upon red-heels or top-knots, but rather to enter into the paſſions of mankind, and to correct thoſe depraved ſentiments that give birth to all thoſe little extravagancies which appear in their outward dreſs and behaviour. Foppiſh and fantaſtic ornaments are only indications of vice, not criminal in themſelves. Extinguiſh vanity in the mind, and you naturally retrench the little ſuperfluities of garniture and equipage. The bloſſoms will fall of themſelves when the root that nouriſhes them is deſtroyed.

I ſhall therefore, as I have ſaid, apply my remedies to the firſt ſeeds and principles of an affected dreſs, without deſcending to the dreſs itſelf; though at the ſame time I muſt own, that I have thoughts of creating an officer under me, to be intituled—'The Cenſor of Small 'Wares,' and of allotting him one day in a week for the execution of ſuch his office. An operator of this nature might act under me with the ſame regard as a ſurgeon to a phyſician; the one might be employed in healing thoſe blotches and tumours which break out in the body, while the other is ſweetening the blood and rectifying the conſtitution. To ſpeak truly, the young people of both ſexes are ſo wonderfully apt to ſhoot out into long ſwords or ſweeping trains, buſhy head-dreſſes, or full-bottomed periwigs, with ſeveral other incumbrances of dreſs, that they ſtand in need of being pruned very frequently, leſt they ſhould be oppreſſed with ornaments, and over-run with the luxuriance of their habits. I am much in doubt, whether I ſhould give the preference to a Quaker that is trimmed cloſe and almoſt cut to the quick, or to a Beau that is loaden with ſuch a redundance of excreſcences. I muſt therefore deſire my correſpondents to let me know how they approve my project, and whether they think the erecting of ſuch a petty cenſorſhip may not turn to the emolument of the public; for I would not do any thing of this nature raſhly and without advice.

There is another ſet of correſpondents to whom I muſt addreſs myſelf in the ſecond place; I mean ſuch as fill their letters with private ſcandal and black accounts of particular perſons and families. The world is ſo full of ill-nature, that I have lampoons ſent me by people who cannot ſpell, and ſatires compoſed by thoſe who ſcarce know how to write. By the laſt poſt in particular, I received a packet of ſcandal which is not legible; and have a whole bundle of letters in women's hands that are full of blots and calumnies, inſomuch, that when I ſee the name Cælia, Phillis, Paſtora, or the like, at the bottom of a ſcrawl, I conclude on courſe that it brings me ſome account of a fallen virgin, a faithleſs wife, or an amorous widow. I muſt therefore inform theſe my correſpondents, that it is not my deſign to be a publiſher of intrigues and cuckoldoms, or to bring little infamous ſtories out of their preſent lurking-holes into broad day-light. If I attack the vicious, I ſhall only ſet upon them in a body; and will not be provoked, by the worſt uſage I can receive from others, to make an example of any particular criminal. In ſhort, I have ſo much of a Drawcanſir in me, that I ſhall not paſs over a ſingle foe to charge whole armies. It is not Lais nor Silenus, but the Harlot and the Drunkard, whom I ſhall endeavour to expoſe; and ſhall conſider the crime as it appears in a ſpecies, not as it is circumſtanced in an individual. I think it was Caligula who wiſhed the whole city of Rome had but one neck, that he might behead them at a blow. I ſhall do, out of humanity, what that emperor would have done in the cruelty of his temper, and aim every ſtroke at a collective body of offenders. At the ſame time I am very ſenſible, that nothing ſpreads a paper like private calumny and defamation; but as my ſpeculations are not under this neceſſity, they are not expoſed to this temptation.

In the next place, I muſt apply myſelf to my party correſpondents, who are continually teazing me to take notice of one another's proceedings. How often am I aſked by both ſides, if it is poſſible for me to be an unconcerned ſpectator of the rogueries that are committed by the party which is oppoſite to him that writes the letter? About two days ſince I was reproached with an old Grecian law, that forbids any man to ſtand as a neuter or a looker-on in the diviſions of his country. However, as I am very ſenſible my paper would loſe it's

it's whole effect, ſhould it run into the outrages of a party, I ſhall take care to keep clear of every thing which looks that way. If I can any way aſſuage private inflammations, or allay public ferments, I ſhall apply myſelf to it with my utmoſt endeavours; but will never let my heart reproach me with having done any thing towards increaſing thoſe feuds and animoſities that extinguiſh religion, deface government, and make a nation miſerable.

What I have ſaid under the three foregoing heads will, I am afraid, very much retrench the number of my correſpondents: I ſhall therefore acquaint my reader, that if he has ſtarted any hint which he is not able to purſue; if he has met with any ſurpriſing ſtory which he does not know how to tell; if he has diſcovered any epidemical vice which has eſcaped my obſervation, or has heard of any uncommon virtue which he would deſire to publiſh; in ſhort, if he has any materials that can furniſh out an innocent diverſion, I ſhall promiſe him my beſt aſſiſtance in the working of them up for a public entertainment.

This paper my reader will find was intended for an anſwer to a multitude of correſpondents; but I hope he will pardon me if I ſingle out one of them in particular, who has made me ſo very humble a requeſt, that I cannot forbear complying with it.

TO THE SPECTATOR.

SIR, MARCH 15, 1710-11.

I Am at preſent ſo unfortunate, as to have nothing to do but to mind my own buſineſs; and therefore beg of you that you will be pleaſed to put me into ſome ſmall poſt under you. I obſerve that you have appointed your printer and publiſher to receive letters and advertiſements for the city of London; and ſhall think myſelf very much honoured by you, if you will appoint me to take in letters and advertiſements for the city of Weſtminſter and the dutchy of Lancaſter. Though I cannot promiſe to fill ſuch an employment with ſufficient abilities, I will endeavour to make up with induſtry and fidelity what I want in parts and genius. I am, Sir, your moſt obedient ſervant,

C CHARLES LILLIE.

Nº XVII. TUESDAY, MARCH 20.

——TETRUM ANTE OMNIA VULTUM.
JUV. SAT. X. 191.

——A VISAGE ROUGH,
DEFORM'D, UNFEATUR'D. DRYDEN.

SINCE our perſons are not of our own making, when they are ſuch as appear defective or uncomely, it is, methinks, an honeſt and laudable fortitude to dare to be ugly; at leaſt to keep ourſelves from being abaſhed with a conſciouſneſs of imperfections which we cannot help, and in which there is no guilt. I would not defend an haggard beau for paſſing away much time at a glaſs, and giving ſoftneſſes and languiſhing graces to deformity; all I intend is, that we ought to be contented with our countenance and ſhape, ſo far, as never to give ourſelves an uneaſy reflection on that ſubject. It is to the ordinary people, who are not accuſtomed to make very proper remarks on any occaſion, matter of great jeſt, if a man enters with a prominent pair of ſhoulders into an aſſembly, or is diſtinguiſhed by an expanſion of mouth, or obliquity of aſpect. It is happy for a man, that has any of theſe oddneſſes about him, if he can be as merry upon himſelf, as others are apt to be upon that occaſion; when he can poſſeſs himſelf with ſuch a chearfulneſs, women and children, who are at firſt frighted at him, will afterwards be as much pleaſed with him. As it is barbarous in others to rally him for natural defects, it is extremely agreeable when he can jeſt upon himſelf for them.

Madame Maintenon's firſt huſband was an hero in this kind, and has drawn many pleaſantries from the irregularity of his ſhape, which he deſcribes as very much reſembling the letter Z. He diverts himſelf likewiſe, by repreſenting to his reader the make of an engine and pully, with which he uſed to take off his hat. When there happens to be any thing ridiculous in a viſage, and the owner of it thinks it an aſpect of dignity,

dignity, he must be of very great quality to be exempt from raillery; the best expedient therefore is to be pleasant upon himself. Prince Harry and Falstaff, in Shakespeare, have carried the ridicule upon fat and lean as far as it will go. Falstaff is humorously called Woolsack, Bedpresser, and Hill of flesh; Harry, a Starveling, an Elves-skin, a Sheath, a Bow-case, and a Tuck. There is, in several incidents of the conversation between them, the jest still kept up upon the person. Great tenderness and sensibility in this point is one of the greatest weaknesses of self-love. For my own part, I am a little unhappy in the mould of my face, which is not quite so long as it is broad: whether this might not partly arise from my opening my mouth much seldomer than other people, and by consequence not so much lengthening the fibres of my visage, I am not at leisure to determine. However it be, I have been often put out of countenance by the shortness of my face, and was formerly at great pains in concealing it by wearing a periwig with an high foretop, and letting my beard grow. But now I have thoroughly got over this delicacy, and could be contented with a much shorter, provided it might qualify me for a member of the Merry Club, which the following letter gives me an account of. I have received it from Oxford; and as it abounds with the spirit of mirth and good-humour which is natural to that place, I shall set it down word for word as it came to me.

MOST PROFOUND SIR,

HAVING been very well entertained in the last of your Speculations that I have yet seen, by your specimen upon Clubs, which I therefore hope you will continue, I shall take the liberty to furnish you with a brief account of such a one as perhaps you have not seen in all your travels, unless it was your fortune to touch upon some of the woody parts of the African continent, in your voyage to or from Grand Cairo. There have arose in this university (long since you left us without saying any thing) several of these inferior hebdomadal societies, as the Punning Club, the Witty Club, and, amongst the rest, the Handsome Club; as a burlesque upon which, a certain merry species, that seem to have come into the world in masquerade, for some years last past have associated themselves together, and assumed the name of the Ugly Club. This ill-favoured fraternity consists of a President and twelve Fellows; the choice of which is not confined by patent to any particular foundation, (as St. John's men would have the world believe, and have therefore erected a separate society within themselves) but liberty is left to elect from any school in Great Britain, provided the candidates be within the rules of the Club, as set forth in a table, intituled, '*The* '*Act of Deformity*.' A clause or two of which I shall transmit to you.

I. That no person whatsoever shall be admitted without a visible queerity in his aspect, or peculiar cast of countenance; of which the president and officers for the time being are to determine, and the president to have the casting voice.

II. That a singular regard be had, upon examination, to the gibbosity of the gentlemen that offer themselves as founders kinsmen; or to the obliquity of their figure, in what sort soever.

III. That if the quantity of any man's nose be eminently miscalculated, whether as to length or breadth, he shall have a just pretence to be elected.

Lastly, That if there shall be two or more competitors for the same vacancy, *cæteris paribus*, he that has the thickest skin to have the preference.

Every fresh member, upon his first night, is to entertain the company with a dish of cod-fish, and a speech in praise of Æsop; whose portraiture they have in full proportion, or rather disproportion, over the chimney; and their design is, as soon as their funds are sufficient, to purchase the heads of Thersites, Duns Scotus, Scaron, Hudibras, and the Old Gentleman in Oldham, with all the celebrated ill faces of antiquity, as furniture for the Club-room.

As they have always been professed admirers of the other sex, so they unanimously declare that they will give all possible encouragement to such as will take the benefit of the statute, though none yet have appeared to do it.

The worthy president, who is their most devoted champion, has lately shewn me two copies of verses composed by a gentleman of this society; the first, a congratulatory ode inscribed to Mrs. Touchwood, upon the loss of her two fore-

fore-teeth; the other, a panegyric upon Mrs. Andiron's left-ſhoulder. Mrs. Vizard, he ſays, ſince the ſmall-pox, is grown tolerably ugly, and a top toaſt in the club; but I never heard him ſo laviſh of his fine things, as upon old Nell Trot, who conſtantly officiates at their table; her he even adores and extols as the very counter-part of Mother Shipton. 'In ſhort, Nell,' ſays he, 'is 'one of the extraordinary works of na-'ture;' but as for complexion, ſhape, and features, ſo valued by others, they are all mere outſide and ſymmetry, which is his averſion. Give me leave to add, that the preſident is a facetious, pleaſant gentleman, and never more ſo, than when he has got (as he calls 'em) his dear Mummers about him; and he often proteſts it does him good to meet a fellow with a right genuine grimace in his air (which is ſo agreeable in the generality of the French nation;) and, as an inſtance of his ſincerity in this particular, he gave me a ſight of a liſt in his pocket-book of all of this claſs, who for theſe five years have fallen under his obſervation, with himſelf at the head of 'em, and in the rear (as one of a promiſing and improving aſpect,) Sir, your obliged and humble ſervant,

ALEXANDER CARBUNCLE.

OXFORD,
MARCH 12, 1710. R

Nº XVIII. WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21.

——EQUITIS QUOQUE JAM MIGRAVIT AB AURE VOLUPTAS
OMNIS AD INCERTOS OCULOS, ET GAUDIA VANA.
HOR. EP. II. V. 187.

BUT NOW OUR NOBLES TOO ARE FOPS AND VAIN,
NEGLECT THE SENSE, BUT LOVE THE PAINTED SCENE.
CREECH.

IT is my deſign in this paper to deliver down to poſterity a faithful account of the Italian opera, and of the gradual progreſs which it has made upon the Engliſh ſtage; for there is no queſtion but our great grand-children will be very curious to know the reaſon why their forefathers uſed to ſit together like an audience of foreigners in their own country, and to hear whole plays acted before them in a tongue which they did not underſtand.

Arſinoe was the firſt opera that gave us a taſte of Italian muſic. The great ſucceſs this opera met with produced ſome attempts of forming pieces upon Italian plans, which ſhould give a more natural and reaſonable entertainment than what can be met with in the elaborate trifles of that nation. This alarmed the poetaſters and fiddlers of the town, who were uſed to deal in a more ordinary kind of ware; and therefore laid down an eſtabliſhed rule, which is received as ſuch to this day, That nothing is capable of being well-ſet to muſic, that is not nonſenſe.

This maxim was no ſooner received, but we immediately fell to tranſlating the Italian operas; and as there was no great danger of hurting the ſenſe of thoſe extraordinary pieces, our authors would often make words of their own, which were entirely foreign to the meaning of the paſſages they pretended to tranſlate; their chief care being to make the numbers of the Engliſh verſe anſwer to thoſe of the Italian, that both of them might go to the ſame tune. Thus the famous ſong in Camilla—

Barbara ſi t'intendo, &c.

Barbarous woman, yes, I knowyour meaning—

which expreſſes the reſentments of an angry lover, was tranſlated into that Engliſh lamentation—

Frail are lover's hopes, &c.

And it was pleaſant enough to ſee the moſt refined perſons of the Britiſh nation dying away and languiſhing to notes that were filled with a ſpirit of rage and indignation. It happened alſo very frequently, where the ſenſe was rightly tranſlated, the neceſſary tranſpoſition of words, which were drawn out of the phraſe of one tongue into that of another, made the muſic appear very abſurd in one tongue that was very natural in the

the other. I remember an Italian verſe that runs thus, word for word—

And turn'd my rage into pity;

which the Engliſh for rhyme ſake tranſlated—

And into pity turn'd my rage.

By this means the ſoft notes, that were adapted to Pity in the Italian, fell upon the word Rage in the Engliſh; and the angry ſounds, that were tuned to rage in the original, were made to expreſs pity in the tranſlation. It oftentimes happened likewiſe, that the fineſt notes in the air fell upon the moſt inſignificant words in the ſentence. I have known the word And purſued through the whole gamut, have been entertained with many a melodious The, and have heard the moſt beautiful graces, quavers, and diviſions beſtowed upon Then, For, and From; to the eternal honour of our Engliſh particles.

The next ſtep to our refinement, was the introducing of Italian Actors into our opera; who ſung their parts in their own language, at the ſame time, that our countrymen performed theirs in our native tongue. The king or hero of the play generally ſpoke in Italian, and his ſlaves anſwered him in Engliſh: the lover frequently made his court, and gained the heart of his princeſs, in a language which ſhe did not underſtand. One would have thought it very difficult to have carried on dialogue after this manner, without an interpreter between the perſons that converſed together; but this was the ſtate of the Engliſh ſtage for about three years.

At length the audience grew tired of underſtanding half the opera; and therefore, to eaſe themſelves entirely of the fatigue of thinking, have ſo ordered it at preſent, that the whole opera is performed in an unknown tongue. We no longer underſtand the language of our own ſtage; inſomuch that I have often been afraid, when I have ſeen our Italian performers chattering in the vehemence of action, that they have been calling us names, and abuſing us among themſelves; but I hope, ſince we do put ſuch an entire confidence in them, they will not talk againſt us before our faces, though they may do it with the ſame ſafety as if it were behind our backs. In the mean time, I cannot forbear thinking how naturally an hiſtorian who writes two or three hundred years hence, and does not know the taſte of his wiſe forefathers, will make the following reflections: 'In the beginning of the 'eighteenth century, the Italian tongue 'was ſo well underſtood in England, 'that the operas were acted on the 'public ſtage in that language.'

One ſcarce knows how to be ſerious in the confutation of an abſurdity that ſhews itſelf at the firſt ſight. It does not want any great meaſure of ſenſe to ſee the ridicule of this monſtrous practice; but, what makes it more aſtoniſhing, it is not the taſte of the rabble, but of perſons of the greateſt politeneſs, which has eſtabliſhed it.

If the Italians have a genius for muſic above the Engliſh, the Engliſh have a genius for other performances of a much higher nature, and capable of giving the mind a much nobler entertainment. Would one think it was poſſible (at a time when an author lived that was able to write the Phædra and Hippolitus) for a people to be ſo ſtupidly fond of the Italian opera, as ſcarce to give a third day's hearing to that admirable tragedy? Muſic is certainly a very agreeable entertainment; but if it would take the entire poſſeſſion of our ears, if it would make us incapable of hearing ſenſe, if it would exclude arts that have a much greater tendency to the refinement of human nature; I muſt confeſs I would allow it no better quarter than Plato has done, who baniſhes it out of his commonwealth.

At preſent, our notions of muſic are ſo very uncertain, that we do not know what it is we like; only, in general, we are tranſported with any thing that is not Engliſh; ſo be it of a foreign growth, let it be Italian, French, or High-Dutch, it is the ſame thing. In ſhort, our Engliſh muſic is quite rooted out, and nothing yet planted in it's ſtead.

When a royal palace is burnt to the ground, every man is at liberty to preſent his plan for a new one; and though it be but indifferently put together, it may furniſh ſeveral hints that may be of uſe to a good architect. I ſhall take the ſame liberty, in a following paper, of giving my opinion upon the ſubject of muſic; which I ſhall lay down only in a problematical manner, to be conſidered by thoſe who are maſters in the art.

N° XIX. THURSDAY, MARCH 22.

DI BENE FECERUNT, INOPIS ME QUODQUE PUSILLI
FINXERUNT ANIMI, RARO ET PER PAUCA LOQUENTIS.
HOR. SAT. IV. I. 17.

THANK HEAVEN THAT MADE ME OF AN HUMBLE MIND;
TO ACTION LITTLE, LESS TO WORDS INCLIN'D!

OBSERVING one perſon behold another, who was an utter ſtranger to him, with a caſt of his eye, which, methought, expreſſed an emotion of heart very different from what could be raiſed by an object ſo agreeable as the gentleman he looked at, I began to conſider, not without ſome ſecret ſorrow, the condition of an Envious Man. Some have fancied that envy has a certain magical force in it, and that the eyes of the envious have by their faſcination blaſted the enjoyments of the happy. Sir Francis Bacon ſays, ſome have been ſo curious as to remark the times and ſeaſons when the ſtroke of an envious eye is moſt effectually pernicious, and have obſerved that it has been when the perſon envied has been in any circumſtance of glory and triumph. At ſuch a time the mind of the proſperous man goes, as it were, abroad, among things without him, and is more expoſed to the malignity. But I ſhall not dwell upon ſpeculations ſo abſtracted as this, or repeat the many excellent things which one might collect out of authors upon this miſerable affection; but keeping in the road of common life, conſider the envious man with relation to theſe three heads, his pains, his reliefs, and his happineſs.

The envious man is in pain upon all occaſions which ought to give him pleaſure. The reliſh of his life is inverted; and the objects which adminiſter the higheſt ſatisfaction to thoſe who are exempt from this paſſion, give the quickeſt pangs to perſons who are ſubject to it. All the perfections of their fellow-creatures are odious; youth, beauty, valour, and wiſdom, are provocations of their diſpleaſure. What a wretched and apoſtate ſtate is this! To be offended with excellence, and to hate a man becauſe we approve him! The condition of the envious man is the moſt emphatically miſerable; he is not only incapable of rejoicing in another's merit or ſucceſs, but lives in a world wherein all mankind are in a plot againſt his quiet, by ſtudying their own happineſs and advantage. Will Proſper is an honeſt tale-bearer; he makes it his buſineſs to join in converſation with envious men. He points to ſuch an handſome young fellow, and whiſpers that he is ſecretly married to a great fortune; when they doubt, he adds circumſtances to prove it; and never fails to aggravate their diſtreſs, by aſſuring them, that, to his knowledge, he has an uncle will leave him ſome thouſands. Will has many arts of this kind to torture this ſort of temper, and delights in it. When he finds them change colour, and ſay faintly they wiſh ſuch a piece of news is true, he has the malice to ſpeak ſome good or other of every man of their acquaintance.

The reliefs of the envious man are thoſe little blemiſhes and imperfections that diſcover themſelves in an illuſtrious character. It is matter of great conſolation to an envious perſon, when a man of known honour does a thing unworthy himſelf; or when any action which was well executed, upon better information appears ſo altered in it's circumſtances, that the fame of it is divided among many, inſtead of being attributed to one. This is a ſecret ſatisfaction to theſe malignants; for the perſon, whom they before could not but admire, they fancy is nearer their own condition as ſoon as his merit is ſhared among others. I remember ſome years ago there came out an excellent poem without the name of the author. The little wits, who were incapable of writing it, began to pull in pieces the ſuppoſed writer. When that would not do, they took great pains to ſuppreſs the opinion that it was his. That again failed. The next refuge was to ſay it was overlooked by one man, and many pages wholly written by another. An honeſt fellow, who ſat among a cluſter

of

of them in debate on this ſubject, cried out—'Gentlemen, if you are ſure none 'of you yourſelves had an hand in it, 'you are but where you were, whoever 'writ it.' But the moſt uſual ſuccour to the envious, in caſes of nameleſs merit in this kind, is to keep the property, if poſſible, unfixed, and by that means to hinder the reputation of it from falling upon any particular perſon. You ſee an envious man clear up his countenance, if, in the relation of any man's great happineſs in one point, you mention his uneaſineſs in another. When he hears ſuch a one is very rich he turns pale, but recovers when you add that he has many children. In a word, the only ſure way to an envious man's favour, is not to deſerve it.

But if we conſider the envious man in delight, it is like reading the ſeat of a giant in a romance, the magnificence of his houſe conſiſts in the many limbs of men whom he has ſlain. If any who promiſed themſelves ſucceſs in any uncommon undertaking miſcarry in the attempt, or he that aimed at what would have been uſeful and laudable, meets with contempt and deriſion, the envious man, under the colour of hating vainglory, can ſmile with an inward wantonneſs of heart at the ill effect it may have upon an honeſt ambition for the future.

Having thoroughly conſidered the nature of this paſſion, I have made it my ſtudy to avoid the envy that may accrue to me from theſe my ſpeculations; and if I am not miſtaken in myſelf, I think I have a genius to eſcape it. Upon hearing in a coffee-houſe one of my papers commended, I immediately apprenended the envy that would ſpring from that applauſe; and therefore gave a deſcription of my face the next day; being reſolved, as I grow in reputation for wit, to reſign my pretenſions to beauty. This, I hope, may give ſome eaſe to thoſe unhappy gentlemen, who do me the honour to torment themſelves upon the account of this my paper. As their caſe is very deplorable, and deſerves compaſſion, I ſhall ſometimes be dull, in pity to them, and will from time to time adminiſter conſolations to them by further diſcoveries on my perſon. In the mean while, if any one ſays the Spectator has wit, it may be ſome relief to them to think that he does not ſhew it in company. And if any one praiſes his morality, they may comfort themſelves by conſidering that his face is none of the longeſt.

R

N° XX. FRIDAY, MARCH 23.

——Κυνὸς ὄμματ' ἔχων.—— HOM. IL. I. 225.

THOU DOG IN FOREHEAD!—— POPE.

AMONG the other hardy undertakings which I have propoſed to myſelf, that of the correction of Impudence is what I have very much at heart. This in a particular manner is my province as Spectator; for it is generally an offence committed by the eyes, and that againſt ſuch as the offenders would perhaps never have an opportunity of injuring any other way. The following letter is a complaint of a young lady, who ſets forth a treſpaſs of this kind, with that command of herſelf as befits beauty and innocence, and yet with ſo much ſpirit as ſufficiently expreſſes her indignation. The whole tranſaction is performed with the eyes; and the crime is no leſs than employing them in ſuch a manner, as to divert the eyes of others from the beſt uſe they can make of them, even looking up to Heaven.

SIR,

THERE never was, I believe, an acceptable man but had ſome aukward imitators. Ever ſince the Spectator appeared, have I remarked a kind of men, whom I chuſe to call Starers; that, without any regard to time, place, or modeſty, diſturb a large company with their impertinent eyes. Spectators make up a proper aſſembly for a puppet-ſhow or a bear-garden; but devout ſupplicants and attentive hearers are the audience one ought to expect in churches. I am, Sir, member of a ſmall pious congregation near one of the north gates of this city; much the greater part of us indeed are females, and uſed

to behave ourſelves in a regular attentive manner, till very lately one whole aiſle has been diſturbed with one of theſe monſtrous Starers; he's the head taller than any one in the church; but, for the greater advantage of expoſing himſelf, ſtands upon a haſſoc, and commands the whole congregation, to the great annoyance of the devouteſt part of the auditory; for what with bluſhing, confuſion, and vexation, we can neither mind the prayers nor ſermon. Your animadverſion upon this inſolence would be a great favour to, Sir, your moſt humble ſervant,

S. C.

I have frequently ſeen of this ſort of fellows, and do not think there can be a greater aggravation of an offence, than that it is committed where the criminal is protected by the ſacredneſs of the place which he violates. Many reflections of this ſort might be very juſtly made upon this kind of behaviour; but a Starer is not uſually a perſon to be convinced by the reaſon of the thing, and a fellow that is capable of ſhewing an impudent front before a whole congregation, and can bear being a public ſpectacle, is not ſo eaſily rebuked as to amend by admonitions. If therefore my correſpondent does not inform me, that within ſeven days after this date the barbarian does not at leaſt ſtand upon his own legs only, without an eminence, my friend Will Proſper has promiſed to take an haſſoc oppoſite to him, and ſtare againſt him, in defence of the ladies. I have given him directions, according to the moſt exact rules of optics, to place himſelf in ſuch a manner, that he ſhall meet his eyes wherever he throws them; I have hopes that when Will confronts him, and all the ladies, in whoſe behalf he engages him, caſt kind looks and wiſhes of ſucceſs at their champion, he will have ſome ſhame, and feel a little of the pain he has ſo often put others to, of being out of countenance.

It has indeed been time out of mind generally remarked, and as often lamented, that this family of Starers have infeſted public aſſemblies; and I know no other way to obviate ſo great an evil, except, in the caſe of fixing their eyes upon women, ſome male friend will take the part of ſuch as are under the oppreſſion of impudence, and encounter the eyes of the Starers wherever they meet them. While we ſuffer our women to be thus impudently attacked, they have no defence, but in the end to caſt yielding glances at the Starers; and, in this caſe, a man who has no ſenſe of ſhame has the ſame advantage over his miſtreſs, as he who has no regard for his own life has over his adverſary. While the generality of the world are fettered by rules, and move by proper and juſt methods; he, who has no reſpect to any of them, carries away the reward due to that propriety of behaviour, with no other merit but that of having neglected it.

I take an impudent fellow to be a ſort of outlaw in good-breeding, and therefore what is ſaid of him no nation or perſon can be concerned for. For this reaſon, one may be free upon him. I have put myſelf to great pains in conſidering this prevailing quality which we call impudence, and have taken notice that it exerts itſelf in a different manner according to the different ſoils wherein ſuch ſubjects of theſe dominions, as are maſters of it, were born. Impudence in an Engliſhman is ſullen and inſolent; in a Scotchman it is untractable and rapacious; in an Iriſhman abſurd and fawning; as the courſe of the world now runs, the impudent Engliſhman behaves like a ſurly landlord, the Scot like an ill-received gueſt, and the Iriſhman like a ſtranger who knows he is not welcome. There is ſeldom any thing entertaining either in the impudence of a South or North-Britain; but that of an Iriſhman is always comic: a true and genuine impudence is ever the effect of ignorance, without the leaſt ſenſe of it; the beſt and moſt ſucceſsful Starers, now in this town, are of that nation; they have uſually the advantage of the ſtature mentioned in the above letter of my correſpondent, and generally take their ſtands in the eye of women of fortune; inſomuch that I have known one of them, three months after he came from plough, with a tolerable good air lead out a woman from a play, which one of our own breed, after four years at Oxford, and two at the Temple, would have been afraid to look at.

I cannot tell how to account for it, but theſe people have uſually the preference to our own fools, in the opinion of the fillier part of womankind. Perhaps it is that an Engliſh coxcomb is

ſeldom

ſeldom ſo obſequious as an Iriſh one; and when the deſign of pleaſing is viſible, an abſurdity in the way towards it is eaſily forgiven.

But thoſe who are downright impudent, and go on without reflection that they are ſuch, are more to be tolerated, than a ſet of fellows among us who profeſs impudence with an air of humour, and think to carry off the moſt inexcuſable of all faults in the world, with no other apology than ſaying in a gay tone—'I put an impudent face 'upon the matter.' No; no man ſhall be allowed the advantages of impudence, who is conſcious that he is ſuch; if he knows he is impudent, he may as well be otherwiſe; and it ſhall be expected that he bluſh, when he ſees he makes another do it. For nothing can atone for the want of modeſty; without which beauty is ungraceful, and wit deteſtable. R

N° XXI. SATURDAY, MARCH 24.

——LOCUS EST ET PLURIBUS UMBRIS. HOR. EP. 5. V. 28.

THERE'S ROOM ENOUGH, AND EACH MAY BRING HIS FRIEND.

CREECH.

I Am ſometimes very much troubled, when I reflect upon the three great profeſſions of Divinity, Law, and Phyſic; how they are each of them overburdened with practitioners, and filled with multitudes of ingenious gentlemen that ſtarve one another.

We may divide the clergy into generals, field officers, and ſubalterns. Among the firſt we may reckon biſhops, deans, and archdeacons. Among the ſecond are doctors of divinity, prebendaries, and all that wear ſcarves. The reſt are comprehended under the ſubalterns. As for the firſt claſs, our conſtitution preſerves it from any redundancy of incumbents, notwithſtanding competitors are numberleſs. Upon a ſtrict calculation, it is found that there has been a great exceeding of late years in the ſecond diviſion, ſeveral brevets having been granted for the converting of ſubalterns into ſearf-officers; inſomuch that within my memory the price of luteſtring is raiſed above two-pence in a yard. As for the ſubalterns, they are not to be numbered. Should our clergy once enter into the corrupt practice of the laity, by the ſplitting of their freeholds, they would be able to carry moſt of the elections in England.

The body of the law is no leſs incumbered with ſuperfluous members, that are like Virgil's army, which he tells us was ſo crouded, many of them had not room to uſe their weapons. This prodigious ſociety of men may be divided into the litigious and peaceable. Under the firſt are comprehended all thoſe who are carried down in coach-fulls to Weſtminſter Hall, every morning in term-time. Martial's deſcription of this ſpecies of lawyers is full of humour—

Iras et verba locant.

'Men that hire out their words and 'anger;' that are more or leſs paſſionate according as they are paid for it, and allow their client a quantity of wrath proportionable to the fee which they receive from him. I muſt however obſerve to the reader, that above three parts of thoſe whom I reckon among the litigious are ſuch as are only quarrelſome in their hearts, and have no opportunity of vewing their paſſion at the bar. Nevertheleſs, as they do not know what ſtrifes may ariſe, they appear at the Hall every day, that they may ſhew themſelves in a readineſs to enter the liſts, whenever there ſhall be occaſion for them.

The peaceable lawyers are, in the firſt place, many of the benchers of the ſeveral inns of court, who ſeem to be the dignitaries of the law, and are endowed with thoſe qualifications of mind that accompliſh a man rather for a ruler than a pleader. Theſe men live peaceably in their habitations, eating once a day, and dancing once a year, for the honour of their reſpective ſocieties.

Another numberleſs branch of peaceable lawyers are thoſe young men, who, being placed at the inns of court in order to ſtudy the laws of their country, frequent the playhouſe more than Weſtminſter

minſter Hall, and are ſeen in all public aſſemblies, except in a court of juſtice. I ſhall ſay nothing of thoſe ſilent and buſy multitudes that are employed within doors in the drawing up of writings and conveyances; nor of thoſe greater numbers that palliate their want of buſineſs with a pretence to ſuch chamber-practice.

If, in the third place, we look into the profeſſion of phyſic, we ſhall find a moſt formidable body of men; the ſight of them is enough to make a man ſerious; for we may lay it down as a maxim, that when a nation abounds in phyſicians, it grows thin of people. Sir William Temple is very much puzzled to find out a reaſon why the northern hive, as he calls it, does not ſend out ſuch prodigious ſwarms, and over-run the world with Goths and Vandals, as it did formerly; but had that excellent author obſerved that there were no ſtudents in phyſic among the ſubjects of Thor and Woden, and that this ſcience very much flouriſhes in the north at preſent, he might have found a better ſolution for this difficulty than any of thoſe he has made uſe of. This body of men in our own country may be deſcribed like the Britiſh army in Cæſar's time; ſome of them ſlay in chariots, and ſome on foot. If the infantry do leſs execution than the charioteers, it is becauſe they cannot be carried ſo ſoon into all quarters of the town, and diſpatch ſo much buſineſs in ſo ſhort a time. Beſides this body of regular troops, there are ſtragglers, who, without being duly liſted and enrolled, do infinite miſchief to thoſe who are ſo unlucky as to fall into their hands.

There are, beſides the above-mentioned, innumerable retainers to phyſic, who for want of other patients, amuſe themſelves with the ſtifling of cats in an air-pump, cutting up dogs alive, or impaling of inſects upon the point of a needle for microſcopical obſervations; beſides thoſe that are employed in the gathering of weeds, and the chaſe of butterflies; not to mention the cockle-ſhell merchants and ſpider-catchers.

When I conſider how each of theſe profeſſions are crouded with multitudes that ſeek their livelihood in them, and how many men of merit there are in each of them, who may be rather ſaid to be of the ſcience, than the profeſſion; I very much wonder at the humour of parents, who will not rather chuſe to place their ſons in a way of life where an honeſt induſtry cannot but thrive, than in ſtations where the greateſt probity, learning, and good ſenſe, may miſcarry. How many men are country-curates, that might have made themſelves aldermen of London, by a right improvement of a ſmaller ſum of money than what is uſually laid out upon a learned education? A ſober frugal perſon, of ſlender parts and a ſlow apprehenſion, might have thrived in trade, though he ſtarves upon phyſic; as a man would be well enough pleaſed to buy ſilks of one, whom he would not venture to feel his pulſe. Vagellius is careful, ſtudious, and obliging, but withal a little thick-ſkulled; he has not a ſingle client, but might have had abundance of cuſtomers. The misfortune is, that parents take a liking to a particular profeſſion, and therefore deſire their ſons may be of it; whereas, in ſo great an affair of life, they ſhould conſider the genius and abilities of their children, more than their own inclinations.

It is the great advantage of a trading nation, that there are very few in it ſo dull and heavy, who may not be placed in ſtations of life, which may give them an opportunity of making their fortunes. A well-regulated commerce is not, like law, phyſic, or divinity, to be overſtocked with hands; but, on the contrary, flouriſhes by multitudes, and gives employment to all it's profeſſors. Fleets of merchant-men are ſo many ſquadrons of floating ſhops, that vend our wares and manufactures in all the markets of the world, and find out chapmen under both the tropics.

C

N° XXII. MONDAY, MARCH 26.

QUODCUNQUE OSTENDIS MIHI SIC, INCREDULUS ODI.
HOR. ARS POET. VER. 188.

——WHATEVER CONTRADICTS MY SENSE
I HATE TO SEE, AND NEVER CAN BELIEVE. ROSCOMMON.

THE word Spectator being moſt uſually underſtood as one of the audience at public repreſentations in our theatres, I ſeldom fail of many letters relating to plays and operas. But indeed there are ſuch monſtrous things done in both, that if one had not been an eye-witneſs of them, one could not believe that ſuch matters had really been exhibited. There is very little which concerns human life, or is a picture of nature, that is regarded by the greater part of the company. The underſtanding is diſmiſſed from our entertainments. Our mirth is the laughter of fools, and our admiration the wonder of idiots; elſe ſuch improbable, monſtrous, and incoherent dreams, could not go off as they do, not only without the utmoſt ſcorn and contempt, but even with the loudeſt applauſe and approbation. But the letters of my correſpondents will repreſent this affair in a more lively manner than any diſcourſe of my own; I ſhall therefore give them to my reader with only this preparation, that they all come from players, and that the buſineſs of playing is now ſo managed, that you are not to be ſurpriſed when I ſay one or two of them are rational, others ſenſitive and vegetative actors, and others wholly inanimate. I ſhall not place theſe as I have named them, but as they have precedence in the opinion of their audience.

MR. SPECTATOR,

YOUR having been ſo humble as to take notice of the epiſtles of other animals, emboldens me, who am the wild boar that was killed by Mrs. Tofts, to repreſent to you, that I think I was hardly uſed in not having the part of the lion in Hydaſpes given to me. It would have been but a natural ſtep for me to have perſonated that noble creature, after having behaved myſelf to ſatisfaction in the part above-mentioned; but that of a lion is too great a character for one that never trod the ſtage before but upon two legs. As for the little reſiſtance which I made, I hope it may be excuſed, when it is conſidered that the dart was thrown at me by ſo fair an hand. I muſt confeſs I had but juſt put on my brutality; and Camilla's charms were ſuch, that beholding her erect mien, hearing her charming voice, and aſtoniſhed with her graceful motion, I could not keep up to my aſſumed fierceneſs, but died like a man. I am, Sir, your moſt humble ſervant,

THOMAS PRONE.

MR. SPECTATOR,

THIS is to let you underſtand, that the playhouſe is a repreſentation of the world in nothing ſo much as in this particular, that no one riſes in it according to his merit. I have acted ſeveral parts of houſhold-ſtuff with great applauſe for many years: I am one of the men in the hangings in the Emperor of the Moon: I have twice performed the third chair in an Engliſh opera; and have rehearſed the pump in the Fortune-Hunters. I am now grown old, and hope you will recommend me ſo effectually, as that I may ſay ſomething before I go off the ſtage: in which you will do a great act of charity to your moſt humble ſervant,

WILLIAM SCRENE.

MR. SPECTATOR,

UNderſtanding that Mr. Screne has writ to you, and deſired to be raiſed from dumb and ſtill parts; I deſire, if you give him motion or ſpeech, that you would advance me in my way, and let me keep on in what I humbly preſume I am a maſter, to wit, in repreſenting human and ſtill life together. I have ſeveral times acted one of the fineſt flower-pots in the ſame opera wherein Mr. Screne is a chair; therefore upon his promotion, requeſt that I may ſucceed him in the hangings, with my hand in the orange-trees. Your humble ſervant,

RALPH SIMPLE.

DRURY-LANE, MARCH 24, 1710-11.

SIR,

I Saw your friend the Templar this evening in the pit, and thought he looked very little pleaſed with the repreſentation of the mad ſcene of the Pilgrim. I wiſh, Sir, you would do us the favour to animadvert frequently upon the falſe taſte the town is in, with relation to plays as well as operas. It certainly requires a degree of underſtanding to play juſtly; but ſuch is our condition, that we are to ſuſpend our reaſon to perform our parts. As to ſcenes of madneſs, you know, Sir, there are noble inſtances of this kind in Shakeſpeare; but then it is the diſturbance of a noble mind, from generous and humane reſentments; it is like that grief which we have for the deceaſe of our friends; it is no diminution, but a recommendation of humane nature, that in ſuch incidents paſſion gets the better of reaſon; and all we can think to comfort ourſelves, is impotent againſt half what we feel. I will not mention that we had an idiot in the ſcene, and all the ſenſe it is repreſented to have is that of luſt. As for myſelf, who have long taken pains in perſonating the paſſions, I have to-night acted only an appetite. The part I played is thirſt, but it is repreſented as written rather by a drayman than a poet. I come in with a tub about me, that tub hung with quart-pots, with a full gallon at my mouth. I am aſhamed to tell you that I pleaſed very much, and this was introduced as a madneſs; but ſure it was not human madneſs, for a mule or an aſs may have been as dry as ever I was in my life. I am, Sir, your moſt obedient and humble ſervant.

FROM THE SAVOY IN THE STRAND.

MR. SPECTATOR,

IF you can read it with dry eyes, I give you this trouble to acquaint you, that I am the unfortunate King Latinus, and believe I am the firſt prince that dated from this place ſince John of Gaunt. Such is the uncertainty of all human greatneſs, that I, who lately never moved without a guard, am now preſſed as a common ſoldier, and am to ſail with the firſt fair wind againſt my brother Lewis of France. It is a very hard thing to put off a character which one has appeared in with applauſe; this I experienced ſince the loſs of my diadem; for, upon quarrelling with another recruit, I ſpoke my indignation out of my part in recitativo—

——————Moſt audacious ſlave,
Dar'ſt thou an angry monarch's fury brave?

The words were no ſooner out of my mouth, when a ſerjeant knocked me down, and aſked me if I had a mind to mutiny, in talking things nobody underſtood. You ſee, Sir, my unhappy circumſtances; and if by your mediation you can procure a ſubſidy for a prince, (who never failed to make all that beheld him merry at his appearance) you will merit the thanks of your friend,

THE KING OF LATIUM.

ADVERTISEMENT.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE PUBLIC.

WITHIN two doors of the Maſquerade lives an eminent Italian chirurgeon, arrived from the Carnival at Venice, of great experience in private cures. Accommodations are provided, and perſons admitted in their maſquing habits.

He has cured ſince his coming thither, in leſs than a fortnight, four Scaramouches, a Mountebank Doctor, two Turkiſh Baſſas, three Nuns and a Morris-Dancer.

Venienti occurrite morbo.

N. B. Any perſon may agree by the great, and be kept in repair by the year. The doctor draws teeth without pulling off your maſk. R

N° XXIII. TUESDAY, MARCH 27.

SÆVIT ATROX VOLSCENS, NEC TELI CONSPICIT USQUAM
AUCTOREM, NEC QUO SE ARDENS IMMITTERE POSSIT.
VIRG. ÆN. IX. 420.

FIERCE VOLSCENS FOAMS WITH RAGE, AND GAZING ROUND
DESCRY'D NOT HIM, WHO GAVE THE FATAL WOUND;
NOR KNEW TO FIX REVENGE.—— DRYDEN.

THERE is nothing that more betrays a baſe ungenerous ſpirit, than the giving of ſecret ſtabs to a man's reputation. Lampoon's and ſatires, that are written with wit and ſpirit, are like poiſoned darts, which not only inflict a wound, but make it incurable. For this reaſon I am very much troubled when I ſee the talents of humour and ridicule in the poſſeſſion of an ill-natured man. There cannot be a greater gratification to a barbarous and inhuman wit, than to ſtir up ſorrow in the heart of a private perſon, to raiſe uneaſineſs among near relations, and to expoſe whole families to deriſion, at the ſame time that he remains unſeen and undiſcovered. If, beſides the accompliſhments of being witty and ill-natured, a man is vicious into the bargain, he is one of the moſt miſchievous creatures that can enter into a civil ſociety. His ſatire will then chiefly fall upon thoſe who ought to be the moſt exempt from it. Virtue, merit, and every thing that is praiſeworthy, will be made the ſubject of ridicule and buffoonery. It is impoſſible to enumerate the evils which ariſe from theſe arrows that fly in the dark; and I know no other excuſe that is or can be made for them, than that the wounds they give are only imaginary, and produce nothing more than a ſecret ſhame or ſorrow in the mind of the ſuffering perſon. It muſt indeed be confeſſed, that a lampoon or ſatire do not carry in them robbery or murder; but at the ſame time, how many are there that would not rather loſe a conſiderable ſum of money, or even life itſelf, than be ſet up as a mark of infamy and deriſion? and in this caſe a man ſhould conſider, that an injury is not to be meaſured by the notions of him that gives, but of him who receives it.

Thoſe who can put the beſt countenance upon the outrages of this nature which are offered them, are not without their ſecret anguiſh. I have often obſerved a paſſage in Socrates's behaviour at his death, in a light wherein none of the critics have conſidered it. That excellent man, entertaining his friends a little before he drank the bowl of poiſon, with a diſcourſe on the immortality of the ſoul, at his entering upon it, ſays, that he does not believe any the moſt comic genius can cenſure him for talking upon ſuch a ſubject at ſuch a time. This paſſage, I think, evidently glances upon Ariſtophanes, who writ a comedy on purpoſe to ridicule the diſcourſes of that divine philoſopher. It has been obſerved by many writers, that Socrates was ſo little moved at this piece of buffoonery, that he was ſeveral times preſent at it's being acted on the ſtage, and never expreſſed the leaſt reſentment of it. But with ſubmiſſion, I think the remark I have here made ſhews us, that this unworthy treatment made an impreſſion upon his mind, though he had been too wiſe to diſcover it.

When Julius Cæſar was lampooned by Catullus, he invited him to a ſupper, and treated him with ſuch a generous civility, that he made the poet his friend ever after. Cardinal Mazarine gave the ſame kind treatment to the learned Quillet, who had reflected upon his eminence in a famous Latin poem. The cardinal ſent for him, and after ſome kind expoſtulations upon what he had written, aſſured him of his eſteem, and diſmiſſed him with a promiſe of the next good abbey that ſhould fall, which he accordingly conferred upon him in a few months after. This had ſo good an effect upon the author, that he dedicated the ſecond edition of his book to the cardinal, after having expunged the paſſages which had given him offence.

Sextus Quintus was not of ſo generous and forgiving a temper. Upon his being made pope, the ſtatue of Paſquin was one night dreſſed in a very dirty ſhirt, with an excuſe written under it, that he was forced to wear foul linen,

becauſe his laundreſs was made a princeſs. This was a reflection upon the pope's ſiſter, who, before the promotion of her brother, was in thoſe mean circumſtances that Paſquin repreſented her. As this paſquinade made a great noiſe in Rome, the pope offered a conſiderable ſum of money to any perſon that ſhould diſcover the author of it. The author relying upon his Holineſs's generoſity, as alſo on ſome private overtures which he had received from him, made the diſcovery himſelf; upon which the pope gave him the reward he had promiſed, but at the ſame time to diſable the ſatiriſt for the future, ordered his tongue to be cut out, and both his hands to be chopped off. Aretine is too trite an inſtance. Every one knows that all the kings in Europe were his tributaries. Nay, there is a letter of his extant, in which he makes his boaſts that he had laid the Sophi of Perſia under contribution.

Though in the various examples which I have here drawn together, theſe ſeveral great men behaved themſelves very differently towards the wits of the age who had reproached them; they all of them plainly ſhewed that they were very ſenſible of their reproaches, and conſequently that they received them as very great injuries. For my own part, I would never truſt a man that I thought was capable of giving theſe ſecret wounds; and cannot but think that he would hurt the perſon, whoſe reputation he thus aſſaults, in his body or in his fortune, could he do it with the ſame ſecurity. There is indeed ſomething very barbarous and inhuman in the ordinary ſcribblers of lampoons. An innocent young lady ſhall be expoſed, for an unhappy feature. A father of a family turned to ridicule, for ſome domeſtic calamity. A wife be made uneaſy all her life, for a miſinterpreted word or action. Nay, a good, a temperate, and a juſt man, ſhall be put out of countenance by the repreſentation of thoſe qualities that ſhould do him honour. So pernicious a thing is wit, when it is not tempered with virtue and humanity.

I have indeed heard of heedleſs inconſiderate writers, that without any malice have ſacrificed the reputation of their friends and acquaintance, to a certain levity of temper, and a ſilly ambition of diſtinguiſhing themſelves by a ſpirit of raillery and ſatire; as if it were not infinitely more honourable to be a good-natured man, than a wit. Where there is this little petulant humour in an author, he is often very miſchievous without deſigning to be ſo. For which reaſon I always lay it down as a rule, that an indiſcreet man is more hurtful than an ill-natured one; for as the latter will only attack his enemies, and thoſe he wiſhes ill to, the other injures indifferently both friends and foes. I cannot forbear, on this occaſion, tranſcribing a fable out of Sir Roger l'Eſtrange, which accidentally lies before me. 'A company of waggiſh boys 'were watching of frogs at the ſide of 'a pond, and ſtill as any of them put 'up their heads, they would be pelting 'them down again with ſtones. "Chil-"dren," ſays one of the frogs, "you "never conſider, that though this may "be play to you, it is death to us."

As this week is in a manner ſet apart and dedicated to ſerious thoughts, I ſhall indulge myſelf in ſuch ſpeculations as may not be altogether unſuitable to the ſeaſon; and in the mean time, as the ſettling in ourſelves a charitable frame of mind is a work very proper for the time, I have in this paper endeavoured to expoſe that particular breach of charity which has been generally overlooked by divines, becauſe they are but few who can be guilty of it. C

N° XXIV. WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28.

ACCURRIT QUIDAM NOTUS MIHI NOMINE TANTUM;
ARREPTAQUE MANU, QUID AGIS, DULCISSIME RERUM?
HOR. SAT. I. IX. 3.

COMES UP A FOP (I KNEW HIM BUT BY FAME)
AND SEIZ'D MY HAND, AND CALL'D ME BY MY NAME—
—MY DEAR!—HOW DOST?

THERE are in this town a great number of inſignificant people, who are by no means fit for the better ſort of converſation, and yet have an impertinent ambition of appearing with thoſe to whom they are not welcome. If

If you walk in the Park, one of them will certainly join with you, though you are in company with ladies; if you drink a bottle, they will find your haunts. What makes such fellows the more burdensome, is, that they neither offend nor please so far as to be taken notice of for either. It is, I presume, for this reason, that my correspondents are willing by my means to be rid of them. The two following letters are writ by persons who suffer by such impertinence. A worthy old bachelor, who sets in for his dose of claret every night at such an hour, is teazed by a swarm of them; who, because they are sure of room and good fire, have taken it in their heads to keep a sort of club in his company; though the sober gentleman himself is an utter enemy to such meetings.

MR. SPECTATOR,

THE aversion I for some years have had to clubs in general, gave me a perfect relish for your speculation on that subject; but I have since been extremely mortified, by the malicious world's ranking me amongst the supporters of such impertinent assemblies. I beg leave to state my case fairly; and that done, I shall expect redress from your judicious pen.

I am, Sir, a bachelor of some standing, and a traveller; my business, to consult my own humour, which I gratify without controlling other people's; I have a room and a whole bed to myself; and I have a dog, a fiddle, and a gun; they please me, and injure no creature alive. My chief meal is a supper, which I always make at a tavern. I am constant to an hour, and not ill-humoured; for which reasons, though I invite nobody, I have no sooner supped, than I have a crowd about me of that sort of good company that know not whither else to go. It is true every man pays his share; yet as they are intruders, I have an undoubted right to be the only speaker, or at least the loudest; which I maintain, and that to the great emolument of my audience. I sometimes tell them their own in pretty free language; and sometimes divert them with merry tales, according as I am in humour. I am one of those who live in taverns to a great age, by a sort of regular intemperance; I never go to bed drunk, but always flustered; I wear away very gently, am apt to be peevish, but never angry. Mr. Spectator, if you have kept various company, you know there is in every tavern in town some old humourist or other, who is master of the house as much as he that keeps it. The drawers are all in awe of him; and all the customers, who frequent his company, yield him a sort of comical obedience. I do not know but I may be such a fellow as this myself. But I appeal to you whether this is to be called a club, because so many impertinents will break in upon me, and come without appointment? Clinch of Barnet has a nightly meeting, and shows to every one that will come in and pay; but then he is the only actor. Why should people miscal things? If his is allowed to be a concert, why may not mine be a lecture? However, Sir, I submit it to you, and am, Sir, your most obedient, &c.

THO. KIMBOW.

GOOD SIR,

YOU and I were pressed against each other last winter in a crowd, in which uneasy posture we suffered together for almost half an hour. I thank you for all your civilities ever since, in being of my acquaintance wherever you meet me. But the other day you pulled off your hat to me in the Park when I was walking with my mistress. She did not like your air, and said she wondered what strange fellows I was acquainted with. Dear Sir, consider it is as much as my life is worth, if she should think we were intimate; therefore I earnestly intreat you for the future to take no manner of notice of, Sir, your obliged humble servant,

WILL. FASHION.

A like impertinence is also very troublesome to the superior and more intelligent part of the fair-sex. It is, it seems, a great inconvenience, that those of the meanest capacities will pretend to make visits, though indeed they are qualified rather to add to the furniture of the house, by filling an empty chair, than to the conversation they come into when they visit. A friend of mine hopes for redress in this case, by the publication of her letter in my paper; which she thinks those she would be rid of will take to themselves. It seems to be written with an eye to one of those pert giddy unthinking girls, who upon the recommendation only of an agreeable person,

and a fashionable air, take themselves to be upon a level with women of the greatest merit.

MADAM,

I Take this way to acquaint you with what common rules and forms would never permit me to tell you otherwise; to wit, that you and I, though equals in quality and fortune, are by no means suitable companions. You are, it is true, very pretty, can dance, and make a very good figure in a public assembly; but, alas, Madam, you must go no further; distance and silence are your best recommendations; therefore let me beg of you never to make me any more visits. You come in a literal sense to see one, for you have nothing to say. I do not say this, that I would by any means lose your acquaintance; but I would keep it up with the strictest forms of good-breeding. Let us pay visits, but never see one another. If you will be so good as to deny yourself always to me, I shall return the obligation by giving the same orders to my servants. When accident makes us meet at a third place, we may mutually lament the misfortune of never finding one another at home, go in the same party to a benefit play, and smile at each other, and put down glasses as we pass in our coaches. Thus we may enjoy as much of each other's friendship as we are capable: for there are some people who are to be known only by sight, with which sort of friendship I hope you will always honour, Madam, your most obedient humble servant,

MARY TUESDAY.

P. S. I subscribe myself by the name of the day I keep, that my supernumerary friends may know who I am.

ADVERTISEMENT.

To prevent all mistakes, that may happen among gentlemen of the other end of the town, who come but once a week to St. James's Coffee-house, either by miscalling the servants, or requiring such things from them as are not properly within their respective provinces; this is to give notice, that Kidney, keeper of the book-debts of the outlying customers, and observer of those who go off without paying, having resigned that employment, is succeeded by John Sowton; to whose place of enterer of messages and first coffee-grinder, William Bird is promoted; and Samuel Burdock comes as shoe-cleaner in the room of the said Bird. R

N° XXV. THURSDAY, MARCH 29.

——ÆGRESCITQUE MEDENDO.

VIRG. ÆN. XII. 46.

AND SICKENS BY THE VERY MEANS OF HEALTH.

THE following letter will explain itself, and needs no apology.

SIR,

I Am one of that sickly tribe who are commonly known by the name of Valetudinarians; and do confess to you, that I first contracted this ill habit of body, or rather of mind, by the study of physic. I no sooner began to peruse books of this nature, but I found my pulse was irregular; and scarce ever read the account of any disease that I did not fancy myself afflicted with. Doctor Sydenham's learned Treatise of Fevers threw me into a lingering hectic, which hung upon me all the while I was reading that excellent piece. I then applied myself to the study of several authors, who have written upon phthifical distempers, and by that means fell into a consumption; till at length, growing very fat, I was in a manner shamed out of that imagination. Not long after this I found in myself all the symptoms of the gout, except pain; but was cured of it by a Treatise upon the Gravel, written by a very ingenious author, who (as it is usual for physicians to convert one distemper into another) eased me of the gout by giving me the stone. I at length studied myself into a complication of distempers; but accidentally taking into my hand that ingenious discourse written by Sanctorius, I was resolved to direct myself by a scheme of rules, which I had collected from his observations. The learned world are very well acquainted with that gentleman's invention; who, for the better carrying on of his experiments, contrived a certain mathematical chair,

chair, which was so artificially hung upon springs, that it would weigh any thing as well as a pair of scales. By this means he discovered how many ounces of his food passed by perspiration, what quantity of it was turned into nourishment, and how much went away by the other channels and distributions of nature.

Having provided myself with this chair, I used to study, eat, drink, and sleep in it; insomuch that I may be said, for these three last years, to have lived in a pair of scales. I compute myself, when I am in full health, to be precisely two hundred weight, falling short of it about a pound after a day's fast, and exceeding it as much after a very full meal; so that it is my continual employment to trim the balance between these two volatile pounds in my constitution. In my ordinary meals I fetch myself up to two hundred weight and half a pound; and if, after having dined, I find myself fall short of it, I drink just so much small-beer, or eat such a quantity of bread, as is sufficient to make me weight. In my greatest excesses I do not transgress more than the other half-pound; which, for my health's sake, I do the first Monday in every month. As soon as I find myself duly poised after dinner, I walk till I have perspired five ounces and four scruples; and when I discover, by my chair, that I am so far reduced, I fall to my books, and study away three ounces more. As for the remaining parts of the pound, I keep no account of them. I do not dine and sup by the clock, but by my chair; for when that informs me my pound of food is exhausted, I conclude myself to be hungry, and lay in another with all diligence. In my days of abstinence I lose a pound and a half, and on solemn fasts am two pounds lighter than on other days in the year.

I allow myself, one night with another, a quarter of a pound of sleep within a few grains more or less; and if upon my rising I find that I have not consumed my whole quantity, I take out the rest in my chair. Upon an exact calculation of what I expended and received the last year, which I always register in a book, I find the medium to be two hundred weight, so that I cannot discover that I am impaired one ounce in my health during a whole twelvemonth. And yet, Sir, notwithstanding this my great care to ballast myself equally every day, and to keep my body in it's proper poise, so it is that I find myself in a sick and languishing condition. My complexion is grown very sallow, my pulse low, and my body hydropical. Let me therefore beg you, Sir, to consider me as your patient, and to give me more certain rules to walk by than those I have already observed, and you will very much oblige

Your humble servant.

This letter puts me in mind of an Italian epitaph written on the monument of a Valetudinarian; '*Stavo ben, 'ma per star Meglio, sto qui:*' which it is impossible to translate. The fear of death often proves mortal, and sets people on methods to save their lives, which infallibly destroy them. This is a reflection made by some historians, upon observing that there are many more thousands killed in a flight than in a battle; and may be applied to those multitudes of imaginary sick persons that break their constitutions by physic, and throw themselves into the arms of death, by endeavouring to escape it. This method is not only dangerous, but below the practice of a reasonable creature. To consult the preservation of life, as the only end of it; to make our health our business; to engage in no action that is not part of a regimen, or course of physic; are purposes so abject, so mean, so unworthy human nature, that a generous soul would rather die than submit to them. Besides, that a continual anxiety for life vitiates all the relishes of it, and casts a gloom over the whole face of nature; as it is impossible we should take delight in any thing that we are every moment afraid of losing.

I do not mean, by what I have here said, that I think any one to blame for taking due care of their health. On the contrary, as chearfulness of mind, and capacity for business, are in a great measure the effects of a well-tempered constitution, a man cannot be at too much pains to cultivate and preserve it. But this care, which we are prompted to, not only by common sense, but by duty and instinct, should never engage us in groundless fears, melancholy apprehensions, and imaginary distempers, which are natural to every man who is

more

more anxious to live than how to live. In ſhort, the preſervation of life ſhould be only a ſecondary concern, and the direction of it our principal. If we have this frame of mind, we ſhall take the beſt means to preſerve life, without being over ſolicitous about the event; and ſhall arrive at that point of felicity which Martial has mentioned as the perfection of happineſs, of neither fearing nor wiſhing for death.

In anſwer to the gentleman, who tempers his health by ounces and by ſcruples, and, inſtead of complying with thoſe natural ſolicitations of hunger and thirſt, drowſineſs or love of exerciſe, governs himſelf by the preſcriptions of his chair, I ſhall tell him a ſhort fable. 'Jupiter,' ſays the mythologiſt, 'to 'reward the piety of a certain country-'man, promiſed to give him what-'ever he would aſk. The country-'man deſired that he might have the 'management of the weather in his 'own eſtate: he obtained his requeſt, 'and immediately diſtributed rain, 'ſnow, and ſunſhine, among his ſeveral 'fields, as he thought the nature of the 'ſoil required. At the end of the year, 'when he expected to ſee a more than 'ordinary crop, his harveſt fell infi-'nitely ſhort of that of his neighbours; 'upon which,' ſays the fable, 'he de-'ſired Jupiter to take the weather again 'into his own hands, or that otherwiſe 'he ſhould utterly ruin himſelf.'

C

N° XXVI. FRIDAY, MARCH 30.

PALLIDA MORS ÆQUO PULSAT PEDE PAUPERUM TABERNAS
REGUMQUE TURRES. O BEATE SESTI,
VITÆ SUMMA BREVIS SPEM NOS VETAT INCHOARE LONGAM.
JAM TE PREMET NOX, FABULÆQUE MANES,
ET DOMUS EXILIS PLUTONIA—— HOR. OD. I. IV. 13.

WITH EQUAL FOOT, RICH FRIEND, IMPARTIAL FATE
KNOCKS AT THE COTTAGE, AND THE PALACE GATE:
LIFE'S SPAN FORBIDS THEE TO EXTEND THY CARES,
AND STRETCH THY HOPES BEYOND THY YEARS:
NIGHT SOON WILL SEIZE, AND YOU MUST QUICKLY GO
TO STORY'D GHOSTS, AND PLUTO'S HOUSE BELOW. CREECH.

WHEN I am in a ſerious humour, I very often walk by myſelf in Weſtminſter Abbey; where the gloomineſs of the place, and the uſe to which it is applied, with the ſolemnity of the building, and the ondition of the people who lie in it, are apt to fill the mind with a kind of melancholy, or rather thoughtfulneſs, that is not diſagreeable. I yeſterday paſſed a whole afternoon in the church-yard, the cloiſters, and the church, amuſing myſelf with the tomb-ſtones and inſcriptions that I met with in thoſe ſeveral regions of the dead. Moſt of them recorded nothing elſe of the buried perſon, but that he was born upon one day, and died upon another: the whole hiſtory of his life being comprehended in thoſe two circumſtances, that are common to all mankind. I could not but look upon theſe regiſters of exiſtence, whether of braſs or marble, as a kind of ſatire upon the departed perſons; who had left no other memorial of them, but that they were born and that they died. They put me in mind of ſeveral perſons mentioned in the battles of heroic poems, who have ſounding names given them, for no other reaſon but that they may be killed, and are celebrated for nothing but being knocked on the head.

Γλῦκόν τε Μεδόντα τε Θερσιλοχόν τε. HOM.

Glaucumque, Medontaque Therſilochumque. VIRG.

Glaucus, and Medon, and Therſilochus.

The life of theſe men is finely deſcribed in Holy Writ by 'the path of an ar-'row,' which is immediately cloſed up and loſt.

Upon my going into the church, I entertained myſelf with the digging of a grave; and ſaw in every ſhovel-full of it that was thrown up, the fragment of a bone or ſkull intermixed with a kind of freſh mouldering earth that ſome time or other had a place in the compoſition of an human body. Upon this I began to conſider with myſelf what innumerable multitudes of people lay confuſed together under the pavement of that ancient cathedral; how men and women,

men, friends and enemies, prieſts and ſoldiers, monks and prebendaries, were crumbled amongſt one another, and blended together in the ſame common maſs; how beauty, ſtrength, and youth, with old-age, weakneſs, and deformity, lay undiſtinguiſhed in the ſame promiſcuous heap of matter.

After having thus ſurveyed this great magazine of mortality, as it were in the lump; I examined it more particularly by the accounts which I found on ſeveral of the monuments which are raiſed in every quarter of that ancient fabric. Some of them were covered with ſuch extravagant epitaphs, that if it were poſſible for the dead perſon to be acquainted with them, he would bluſh at the praiſes which his friends have beſtowed upon him. There are others ſo exceſſively modeſt, that they deliver the character of the perſon departed in Greek or Hebrew, and by that means are not underſtood once in a twelvemonth. In the poetical quarter, I found there were poets who had no monuments, and monuments which had no poets. I obſerved indeed that the preſent war had filled the church with many of theſe uninhabited monuments, which had been erected to the memory of perſons whoſe bodies were perhaps buried in the plains of Blenheim, or in the boſom of the ocean.

I could not but be very much delighted with ſeveral modern epitaphs, which are written with great elegance of expreſſion and juſtneſs of thought, and therefore do honour to the living as well as the dead. As a foreigner is very apt to conceive an idea of the ignorance or politeneſs of a nation from the turn of their public monuments and inſcriptions, they ſhould be ſubmitted to the peruſal of men of learning and genius before they are put in execution. Sir Cloudeſly Shovel's monument has very often given me great offence; inſtead of the brave rough Engliſh admiral, which was the diſtinguiſhing character of that plain gallant man, he is repreſented on his tomb by the figure of a beau, dreſſed in a long periwig, and repoſing himſelf upon velvet cuſhions under a canopy of ſtate. The inſcription is anſwerable to the monument; for inſtead of celebrating the many remarkable actions he had performed in the ſervice of his country, it acquaints us only with the manner of his death, in which it was impoſſible for him to reap any honour. The Dutch, whom we are apt to deſpiſe for want of genius, ſhew an infinitely greater taſte of antiquity and politeneſs in their buildings, and works of this nature, than what we meet with in thoſe of our own country. The monuments of their admirals, which have been erected at the public expence, repreſent them like themſelves; and are adorned with roſtral crowns and naval ornaments, with beautiful feſtoons of ſea-weed, ſhells, and coral.

But to return to our ſubject. I have left the repoſitory of our Engliſh kings for the contemplation of another day, when I ſhall find my mind diſpoſed for ſo ſerious an amuſement. I know that entertainments of this nature are apt to raiſe dark and diſmal thoughts in timorous minds and gloomy imaginations; but for my own part, though I am always ſerious, I do not know what it is to be melancholy; and can therefore take a view of nature, in her deep and ſolemn ſcenes, with the ſame pleaſure as in her moſt gay and delightful ones. By this means I can improve myſelf with thoſe objects, which others conſider with terror. When I look upon the tombs of the great, every emotion of envy dies in me; when I read the epitaphs of the beautiful, every inordinate deſire goes out; when I meet with the grief of parents upon a tomb-ſtone, my heart melts with compaſſion; when I ſee the tomb of the parents themſelves, I conſider the vanity of grieving for thoſe whom we muſt quickly follow; when I ſee kings lying by thoſe who depoſed them, when I conſider rival wits placed ſide by ſide, or the holy men that divided the world with their conteſts and diſputes, I reflect with ſorrow and aſtoniſhment on the little competitions, factions, and debates of mankind. When I read the ſeveral dates of the tombs, of ſome that died yeſterday, and ſome ſix hundred years ago, I conſider that great day when we ſhall all of us be contemporaries, and make our appearance together.

C

N° XXVII. SATURDAY, MARCH 31.

UT NOX LONGA, QUIBUS MENTITUR AMICA, DIESQUE
LONGA VIDETUR OPUS DEBENTIBUS; UT PIGER ANNUS
PUPILLIS, QUOS DURA PREMIT CUSTODIA MATRUM:
SIC MIHI TARDA FLUUNT INGRATAQUE TEMPORA, QUÆ SPEM
CONSILIUMQUE MORANTUR AGENDI GNAVITER ID, QUOD
ÆQUE PAUPERIBUS PRODEST, LOCUPLETIBUS ÆQUE;
ÆQUE NEGLECTUM PUERIS SENIBUSQUE NOCEBIT.

HOR. EP. I. 1. 20.

IMITATED.

LONG AS TO HIM, WHO WORKS FOR DEBT, THE DAY;
LONG AS THE NIGHT TO HER, WHOSE LOVE'S AWAY;
LONG AS THE YEAR'S DULL CIRCLE SEEMS TO RUN,
WHEN THE BRISK MINOR PANTS FOR TWENTY-ONE:
SO SLOW TH' UNPROFITABLE MOMENTS ROLL,
THAT LOCK UP ALL THE FUNCTIONS OF MY SOUL;
THAT KEEP ME FROM MYSELF, AND STILL DELAY
LIFE'S INSTANT BUSINESS TO A FUTURE DAY:
THAT TASK, WHICH AS WE FOLLOW, OR DESPISE,
THE ELDEST IS A FOOL, THE YOUNGEST WISE:
WHICH DONE, THE POOREST CAN NO WANTS ENDURE;
AND WHICH NOT DONE, THE RICHEST MUST BE POOR. POPE.

THERE is ſcarce a thinking man in the world, who is involved in the buſineſs of it, but lives under a ſecret impatience of the hurry and fatigue he ſuffers, and has formed a reſolution to fix himſelf one time or other, in ſuch a ſtate as is ſuitable to the end of his being. You hear men every day in converſatiou profeſs that all the honour, power, and riches, which they propoſe to themſelves, cannot give ſatisfaction enough to reward them for half the anxiety they undergo in the purſuit or poſſeſſion of them. While men are in this temper, which happens very frequently, how inconſiſtent are they with themſelves! They are wearied with the toil they bear, but cannot find in their hearts to relinquiſh it; retirement is what they want, but they cannot betake themſelves to it: while they pant after ſhade and covert, they ſtill affect to appear in the moſt glittering ſcenes of life; but ſure this is but juſt as reaſonable as if a man ſhould call for more lights, when he has a mind to go to ſleep.

Since then it is certain that our own hearts deceive us in the love of the world, and that we cannot command ourſelves enough to reſign it, though we every day wiſh ourſelves diſengaged from it's allurements; let us not ſtand upon a formal taking of leave, but wean ourſelves from them, while we are in the midſt of them.

It is certainly the general intention of the greater part of mankind to accompliſh this work, and live according to their own approbation, as ſoon as they poſſibly can; but ſince the duration of life is ſo uncertain, and that has been a common topic of diſcourſe ever ſince there was ſuch a thing as life itſelf, how is it poſſible that we ſhould defer a moment the beginning to live according to the rules of reaſon?

The man of buſineſs has ever ſome one point to carry, and then he tells himſelf he'll bid adieu to all the vanity of ambition; the man of pleaſure reſolves to take his leave at leaſt, and part civilly with his miſtreſs: but the ambitious man is entangled every moment in a freſh purſuit, and the lover ſees new charms in the object he fancied he could abandon. It is therefore a fantaſtical way of thinking, when we promiſe ourſelves an alteration in our conduct from change of place, and difference of circumſtances; the ſame paſſions will attend us wherever we are, till they are conquered; and we can never live to our ſatisfaction in the deepeſt retirement, unleſs we are capable of living ſo in ſome meaſure amidſt the noiſe and buſineſs of the world.

I have ever thought men were better

known

known by what could be obſerved of them from a peruſal of their private letters, than any other way. My friend the clergyman, the other day, upon ſerious diſcourſe with him concerning the danger of procraſtination, gave me the following letters from perſons with whom he lives in great friendſhip and intimacy, according to the good breeding and good ſenſe of his character. The firſt is from a man of buſineſs, who is his convert; the ſecond from one of whom he conceives good hopes; the third from one who is in no ſtate at all, but carried one way and another by ſtarts.

SIR,

I Know not with what words to expreſs to you the ſenſe I have of the high obligation you have laid upon me, in the penance you enjoined me of doing ſome good or other to a perſon of worth every day I live. The ſtation I am in furniſhes me with daily opportunities of this kind; and the noble principle with which you have inſpired me, of benevolence to all I have to deal with, quickens my application in every thing I undertake. When I relieve merit from diſcountenance, when I aſſiſt a friendleſs perſon, when I produce concealed worth, I am diſpleaſed with myſelf, for having deſigned to leave the world in order to be virtuous. I am ſorry you decline the occaſions which the condition I am in might afford me of enlarging your fortunes; but know I contribute more to your ſatisfaction, when I acknowledge I am the better man, from the influence and authority you have over, Sir, your moſt obliged and moſt humble ſervant,

R. O.

SIR,

I Am intirely convinced of the truth of what you were pleaſed to ſay to me, when I was laſt with you alone. You told me then of the ſilly way I was in; but you told me ſo, as I ſaw you loved me, otherwiſe I could not obey your commands in letting you know my thoughts ſo ſincerely as I do at preſent. 'I know the creature for whom I reſign 'ſo much of my character,' is all that you ſaid of her; but then the trifler has ſomething in her ſo undeſigning and harmleſs, that her guilt in one kind diſappears by the compariſon of her innocence in another. Will you, virtuous men, allow no alteration of offences? Muſt dear Chloe be called by the hard name you pious people give to common women? I keep the ſolemn promiſe I made you in writing to you the ſtate of my mind, after your kind admonition; and will endeavour to get the better of this fondneſs, which makes me ſo much her humble ſervant, that I am almoſt aſhamed to ſubſcribe myſelf yours,

T. D.

SIR,

THERE is no ſtate of life ſo anxious as that of a man who does not live according to the dictates of his own reaſon. It will ſeem odd to you, when I aſſure you that my love of retirement firſt of all brought me to court; but this will be no riddle, when I acquaint you that I placed myſelf here with a deſign of getting ſo much money as might enable me to purchaſe a handſome retreat in the country. At preſent my circumſtances enable me, and my duty prompts me, to paſs away the remaining part of my life in ſuch a retirement as I at firſt propoſed to myſelf; but to my great misfortune I have intirely loſt the reliſh of it, and ſhould now return to the country with greater reluctance than I at firſt came to court. I am ſo unhappy, as to know that what I am fond of are trifles, and that what I neglect is of the greateſt importance: in ſhort, I find a conteſt in my own mind between reaſon and faſhion. I remember you once told me that I might live in the world and out of it at the ſame time. Let me beg of you to explain this paradox more at large to me, that I may conform my life, if poſſible, both to my duty and my inclination. I am, your moſt humble ſervant,

R. B.

N° XXVIII. MONDAY, APRIL 2.

——NEQUE SEMPER ARCUM
TENDIT APOLLO.

HOR. OD. II. x. 19.

NOR DOES APOLLO ALWAYS BEND HIS BOW.

I Shall here preſent my reader with a letter from a projector, concerning a new office which he thinks may very much contribute to the embelliſhment of the city, and to the driving barbarity out of our ſtreets. I conſider it as a ſatire upon projectors in general, and a lively picture of the whole art of modern criticiſm.

SIR,

OBSEVRVING that you have thoughts of creating certain officers under you, for the inſpection of ſeveral petty enormities which you yourſelf cannot attend to; and finding daily abſurdities hung out upon the ſign-poſts of this city, to the great ſcandal of foreigners, as well as thoſe of our own country, who are curious ſpectators of the ſame; I do humbly propoſe that you would be pleaſed to make me your ſuperintendant of all ſuch figures and devices as are or ſhall be made uſe of on this occaſion; with full powers to rectify or expunge whatever I ſhall find irregular or defective. For want of ſuch an officer, there is nothing like ſound literature and good ſenſe to be met with in thoſe objects, that are every where thruſting themſelves out to the eye, and endeavouring to become viſible. Our ſtreets are filled with blue boars, black ſwans, and red lions; not to mention flying pigs and hogs in armour, with many other creatures more extraordinary than any in the deſarts of Afric. Strange! that one who has all the birds and beaſts in nature to chooſe out of, ſhould live at the ſign of the Ens Rationis!

My firſt taſk therefore ſhould be, like that of Hercules, to clear the city from monſters. In the ſecond place I would forbid, that creatures of jarring and incongruous natures ſhould be joined together in the ſame ſign; ſuch as the Bell and the Neat's-tongue, the Dog and Gridiron. The Fox and Gooſe may be ſuppoſed to have met, but what has the Fox and Seven Stars to do together? And when did the Lamb and Dolphin ever meet, except upon a ſign-poſt? As for the Cat and Fiddle, there is a conceit in it; and therefore I do not intend that any thing I have here ſaid ſhould affect it. I muſt however obſerve to you upon this ſubject, that it is uſual for a young tradeſman, at his firſt ſetting-up, to add to his own ſign that of the maſter whom he ſerved; as the huſband, after marriage, gives a place to his miſtreſs's arms in his own coat. This I take to have given riſe to many of thoſe abſurdities which are committed over our heads; and, as I am informed, firſt occaſioned the three Nuns and a Hare, which we ſee ſo frequently joined together. I would therefore eſtabliſh certain rules, for the determining how far one tradeſman may give the ſign of another; and in what caſes he may be allowed to quarter it with his own.

In the third place, I would enjoin every ſhop to make uſe of a ſign which bears ſome affinity to the wares in which it deals. What can be more inconſiſtent, than to ſee a Bawd at the ſign of the Angel, or a Tailor at the Lion? A Cook ſhould not live at the Boot, nor a Shoe-maker at the Roaſted Pig; and yet, for want of this regulation, I have ſeen a Goat ſet up before the door of a perfumer, and the French King's Head at a Sword-cutler's.

An ingenious foreigner obſerves, that ſeveral of thoſe gentlemen who value themſelves upon their families, and overlook ſuch as are bred to trade, bear the tools of their forefathers in their coats of arms. I will not examine how true this is in fact; but though it may not be neceſſary for poſterity thus to ſet up the ſign of their forefathers, I think it highly proper for thoſe who actually profeſs the trade, to ſhew ſome ſuch marks before their doors.

When the name gives an occaſion for

an ingenious ſign-poſt, I would likewiſe adviſe the owner to take that opportunity of letting the world know who he is. It would have been ridiculous for the ingenious Mrs. Salmon to have lived at the ſign of the Trout; for which reaſon ſhe has erected before her houſe the figure of the fiſh that is her name-ſake. Mr. Bell has likewiſe diſtinguiſhed himſelf by a device of the ſame nature: and here, Sir, I muſt beg leave to obſerve to you, that this particular figure of a bell has given occaſion to ſeveral pieces of wit in this kind. A man of your reading muſt know, that Abel Drugger gained great applauſe by it in the time of Ben Johnſon. Our apocryphal heathen God is alſo repreſented by this figure; which, in conjunction with the dragon, makes a very handſome picture in ſeveral of our ſtreets. As for the Bell-ſavage, which is the ſign of a ſavage man ſtanding by a bell, I was formerly very much puzzled upon the conceit of it, till I accidentally fell into the reading of an old romance tranſlated out of the French; which gives an account of a very beautiful woman who was found in a wilderneſs, and is called in the French, La belle Sauvage; and is every where tranſlated by our countrymen the Bell-Savage. This piece of philoſophy will, I hope, convince you that I have made ſign-poſts my ſtudy, and conſequently qualified myſelf for the employment which I ſolicit at your hands. But before I conclude my letter, I muſt communicate to you another remark which I have made upon the ſubject with which I am now entertaining you, namely, that I can give a ſhrewd gueſs at the humour of the inhabitant by the ſign that hangs before his door. A ſurly choleric fellow generally makes choice of a Bear; as men of milder diſpoſitions frequently live at the Lamb. Seeing a Punch-bowl painted upon a ſign near Charing-Croſs, and very curiouſly garniſhed, with a couple of angels hovering over it and ſqueezing a lemon into it, I had the curioſity to aſk after the maſter of the houſe, and found, upon enquiry, as I had gueſſed by the little *agrémens* upon his ſign, that he was a Frenchman. I know, Sir, it is not requiſite for me to enlarge upon theſe hints to a gentleman of your great abilities; ſo humbly recommending myſelf to your favour and patronage, I remain, &c.

I ſhall add to the foregoing letter, another which came to me by the ſame penny-poſt.

FROM MY OWN APARTMENT NEAR CHARING-CROSS.

HONOURED SIR,

HAVING heard that this nation is a great encourager of ingenuity, I have brought with me a rope-dancer that was caught in one of the woods belonging to the Great Mogul. He is by birth a monkey; but ſwings upon a rope, takes a pipe of tobacco, and drinks a glaſs of ale, like any reaſonable creature. He gives great ſatisfaction to the quality; and if they will make a ſubſcription for him, I will ſend for a brother of his out of Holland that is a very good tumbler; and alſo for another of the ſame family whom I deſign for my Merry-Andrew, as being an excellent mimic, and the greateſt droll in the country where he now is. I hope to have this entertainment in readineſs for the next winter; and doubt not but it will pleaſe more than the opera or puppet-ſhow. I will not ſay that a monkey is a better man than ſome of the opera-heroes; but certainly he is a better repreſentative of a man, than the moſt artificial compoſition of wood and wire. If you will be pleaſed to give me a good word in your paper, you ſhall be every night a ſpectator at my ſhow for nothing.

I am, &c.

C.

N° XXIX. TUESDAY, APRIL 3.

——SERMO LINGUA CONCINNUS UTRAQUE
SUAVIOR: UT CHIO NOTA SI COMMISTA FALERNI EST.
HOR. SAT. I. X. 23.

BOTH TONGUES UNITED SWEETER SOUNDS PRODUCE,
LIKE CHIAN MIX'D WITH THE FALERNIAN JUICE.

THERE is nothing that has more ſtartled our Engliſh audience, than the Italian Recitativo at it's firſt entrance upon the ſtage. People were wonderfully ſurpriſed to hear generals ſinging the word of command, and ladies delivering meſſages in muſic. Our countrymen could not forbear laughing when they heard a lover chanting out a billet-doux, and even the ſuperſcription of a letter ſet to a tune. The famous blunder in an old play of 'Enter a king 'and two fiddler's ſolus,' was now no longer an abſurdity; when it was impoſſible for a hero in a deſert, or a princeſs in her cloſet, to ſpeak any thing unaccompanied with muſical inſtruments.

But however this Italian method of acting in Recitativo might appear at firſt hearing, I cannot but think it much more juſt than that which prevailed in our Engliſh opera before this innovation; the tranſition from an air to recitative muſic being more natural, than the paſſing from a ſong to plain and ordinary ſpeaking, which was the common method in Purcell's operas.

The only fault I find in our preſent practice is the making uſe of the Italian Recitativo with Engliſh words.

To go to the bottom of this matter, I muſt obſerve, that the tone, or, as the French call it, the accent of every nation in their ordinary ſpeech is altogether different from that of ever other people; as we may ſee even in the Welſh and Scotch, who border ſo near upon us. By the tone or accent, I do not mean the pronunciation of each particular word, but the ſound of the whole ſentence. Thus it is very common for an Engliſh gentleman, when he hears a French tragedy, to complain that the actors all of them ſpeak in a tone; and therefore he very wiſely prefers his own countrymen, not conſidering that a foreigner complains of the ſame tone in an Engliſh actor.

For this reaſon, the recitative muſic, in every language, ſhould be as different as the tone or accent of each language; for otherwiſe, what may properly expreſs a paſſion in one language will not do it in another. Every one who has been long in Italy knows very well, that the cadences in the Recitativo bear a remote affinity to the tone of their voices in ordinary converſation, or, to ſpeak more properly, are only the accents of their language made more muſical and tuneful.

Thus the notes of interrogation, or admiration, in the Italian muſic, if one may ſo call them, which reſemble their accents in diſcourſe on ſuch occaſions, are not unlike the ordinary tones of an Engliſh voice when we are angry; inſomuch that I have often ſeen our audiences extremely miſtaken as to what has been doing upon the ſtage, and expecting to ſee the hero knock down his meſſenger, when he has been aſking him a queſtion; or fancying that he quarrels with his friend, when he only bids him good-morrow.

For this reaſon the Italian artiſts cannot agree with our Engliſh muſicians, in admiring Purcell's compoſitions, and thinking his tunes ſo wonderfully adapted to his words; becauſe both nations do not always expreſs the ſame paſſions by the ſame ſounds.

I am therefore humbly of opinion that an Engliſh compoſer ſhould not follow the Italian recitative too ſervilely, but make uſe of many gentle deviations from it, in compliance with his own native language. He may copy out of it all the lulling ſoftneſs and Dying Falls, as Shakeſpeare calls them, but ſhould ſtill remember that he ought to accommodate himſelf to an Engliſh audience; and by humouring the tone of our voices in ordinary converſation, have the ſame regard to the accent of his own language, as thoſe perſons had to their's whom he profeſſes to imitate.

I

It is obſerved that ſeveral of the ſinging birds of our own country learn to ſweeten their voices, and mellow the harſhneſs of their natural notes, by practiſing under thoſe that come from warmer climates. In the ſame manner I would allow the Italian opera to lend our Engliſh muſic as much as may grace and ſoften it, but never intirely to annihilate and deſtroy it. Let the infuſion be as ſtrong as you pleaſe, but ſtill let the ſubject-matter of it be Engliſh.

A compoſer ſhould fit his muſic to the genius of the people, and conſider that the delicacy of hearing, and taſte of harmony, has been formed upon thoſe ſounds which every country abounds with: in ſhort, that muſic is of a relative nature, and what is harmony to one ear, may be diſſonance to another.

The ſame obſervations which I have made upon the recitative part of muſic, may be applied to all our ſongs and airs in general.

Signior Baptiſt Lully acted like a man of ſenſe in this particular. He found the French muſic extremely defective, and very often barbarous: however, knowing the genius of the people, the humour of their language, and the prejudiced ears he had to deal with, he did not pretend to extirpate the French muſic and plant the Italian in it's ſtead; but only to cultivate and civilize it with innumerable graces and modulations which he borrowed from the Italian. By this means, the French muſic is now perfect in it's kind; and when you ſay it is not ſo good as the Italian, you only mean that it does not pleaſe you ſo well; for there is ſcarce a Frenchman who would not wonder to hear you give the Italian ſuch a preference. The muſic of the French is indeed very properly adapted to their pronunciation and accent, as their whole opera wonderfully favours the genius of ſuch a gay airy people. The chorus in which that opera abounds gives the parterre frequent opportunities of joining in concert with the ſtage. This inclination of the audience to ſing along with the actors, ſo prevails with them, that I have ſometimes known the performer on the ſtage do no more in a celebrated ſong, than the clerk of a pariſh-church, who ſerves only to raiſe the pſalm, and is afterwards drowned in the muſic of the congregation. Every actor that comes on the ſtage is a beau. The queens and heroines are ſo painted, that they appear as ruddy and cherry-cheeked as milk-maids. The ſhepherds are all embroidered, and acquit themſelves in a ball better than our Engliſh dancing-maſters. I have ſeen a couple of rivers appear in red ſtockings; and Alpheus, inſtead of having his head covered with ſedge and bull-ruſhes, making love in a fair full-bottomed periwig, and a plume of feathers; but with a voice ſo full of ſhakes and quavers, that I ſhould have thought the murmurs of a country brook the much more agreeable muſic.

I remember the laſt opera I ſaw in that merry nation, was the Rape of Proſerpine, where Pluto, to make the more tempting figure, put himſelf in a French equipage, and brings Aſcalaphus along with him as his valet de chambre. This is what we call folly and impertinence; but what the French look upon as gay and polite.

I ſhall add no more to what I have here offered, than that muſic, architecture, and painting, as well as poetry and oratory, are to deduce their laws and rules from the general ſenſe and taſte of mankind, and not from the principles of thoſe arts themſelves; or in other words, the taſte is not to conform to the art, but the art to the taſte. Muſic is not deſigned to pleaſe only chromatic ears, but all that are capable of diſtinguiſhing harſh from diſagreeable notes. A man of an ordinary ear is a judge whether a paſſion is expreſſed in proper ſounds, and whether the melody of thoſe ſounds be more or leſs pleaſing.

C

N° XXX. WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4.

SI, MIMNERMUS UTI CENSET, SINE AMORE JOCISQUE
NIL EST JUCUNDUM; VIVAS IN AMORE JOCISQUE.
HOR. EP. I. VI. 56.

IF NOTHING, AS MIMNERMUS STRIVES TO PROVE,
CAN E'ER BE PLEASANT WITHOUT WANTON LOVE,
THEN LIVE IN WANTON LOVE, THY SPORTS PURSUE.
CREECH.

ONE common calamity makes men extremely affect each other, tho' they differ in every other particular. The paſſion of love is the moſt general concern among men; and I am glad to hear by my laſt advices from Oxford, that there are a ſet of ſighers in that univerſity, who have erected themſelves into a ſociety, in honour of that tender paſſion. Theſe gentlemen are of that ſort of inamoratos, who are not ſo very much loſt to common ſenſe, but that they underſtand the folly they are guilty of; and for that reaſon ſeparate themſelves from all other company, becauſe they will enjoy the pleaſure of talking incoherently, without being ridiculous to any but each other. When a man comes into the club, he is not obliged to make any introduction to his diſcourſe, but at once, as he is ſeating himſelf in his chair, ſpeaks in the thread of his own thoughts—'She gave me a 'very obliging glance, ſhe never looked 'ſo well in her life as this evening;' or the like reflection, without regard to any other member of the ſociety; for in this aſſembly they do not meet to talk to each other, but every man claims the full liberty of talking to himſelf. Inſtead of ſnuff-boxes and canes, which are uſual helps to diſcourſe with other young fellows, theſe have each ſome piece of ribbon, a broken fan, or an old girdle, which they play with while they talk of the fair perſon remembered by each reſpective token. According to the repreſentation of the matter from my letters, the company appear like ſo many players rehearſing behind the ſcenes; one is ſighing and lamenting his deſtiny in beſeeching terms, another declaring he will break his chain, and another in dumb-ſhow ſtriving to expreſs his paſſion by his geſture. It is very ordinary in the aſſembly for one of a ſudden to riſe and make a diſcourſe concerning his paſſio in general, and deſcribe the temper of his mind in ſuch a manner, as that the whole company ſhall join in the deſcription, and feel the force of it. In this caſe, if any man has declared the violence of his flame in more pathethic terms, he is made preſident for that night, out of reſpect to his ſuperior paſſion.

We had ſome years ago in this town a ſet of people who met and dreſſed like lovers, and were diſtinguiſhed by the name of the Fringe-glove Club; but they were perſons of ſuch moderate intellects, even before they were impaired by their paſſion, that their irregularities could not furniſh ſufficient variety of folly to afford daily new impertinencies; by which means that inſtitution dropped. Theſe fellows could expreſs their paſſion in nothing but their dreſs; but the Oxonians are fantaſtical now they are lovers, in proportion to their learning and underſtanding before they became ſuch. The thoughts of the ancient poets on this agreeable phrenzy, are tranſlated in honour of ſome modern beauty; and Chloris is won to-day by the ſame compliment that was made to Leſbia a thouſand years ago. But as far as I can learn, the patron of the club is the renowned Don Quixote. The adventures of that gentle knight are frequently mentioned in the ſociety, under the colour of laughing at the paſſion and themſelves; but at the ſame time, though they are ſenſible of the extravagances of that unhappy warrior, they do not obſerve, that to turn all the reading of the beſt and wiſeſt writings into rhapſodies of love, is a phrenzy no leſs diverting than that of the aforeſaid accompliſhed Spaniard. A gentleman who, I hope, will continue his correſpondence, is lately admitted into the fraternity, and ſent me the following letter.

SIR,

SIR,

SINCE I find you take notice of clubs, I beg leave to give you an account of one in Oxford, which you have no where mentioned, and perhaps never heard of. We diſtinguiſh ourſelves by the title of the Amorous Club, are all votaries of Cupid, and admirers of the fair-ſex. The reaſon that we are ſo little known in the world, is the ſecrecy which we are obliged to live under in the univerſity. Our conſtitution runs counter to that of the place wherein we live; for in love there are no doctors, and we all profeſs ſo high a paſſion, that we admit of no graduates in it. Our preſidentſhip is beſtowed according to the dignity of paſſion; our number is unlimited; and our ſtatutes are like thoſe of the Druids, recorded in our own breaſts only, and explained by the majority of the company. A miſtreſs, and a poem in her praiſe, will introduce any candidate; without the latter no one can be admitted; for he that is not in love enough to rhyme, is unqualified for our ſociety. To ſpeak diſreſpectfully of any woman is expulſion from our gentle ſociety. As we are at preſent all of us gown-men, inſtead of duelling when we are rivals, we drink together the health of our miſtreſs. The manner of doing this ſometimes indeed creates debates; on ſuch occaſions we have recourſe to the rules of love among the ancients.

Naevia ſex cyathis, ſeptem Juſtina bibatur.
MART. EPIG. I. 72.

Six cups to Naevia, to Juſtina ſeven.

This method of a glaſs to every letter of her name, occaſioned the other night a diſpute of ſome warmth. A young ſtudent, who is in love with Mrs. Elizabeth Dimple, was ſo unreaſonable as to begin her health under the name of Elizabetha; which ſo exaſperated the club, that by common conſent we retrenched it to Betty. We look upon a man as no company, that does not ſigh five times in a quarter of an hour; and look upon a member as very abſurd, that is ſo much himſelf as to make a direct anſwer to a queſtion. In fine, the whole aſſembly is made up of abſent men, that is, of ſuch perſons as have loſt their locality, and whoſe minds and bodies never keep company with one another. As I am an unfortunate member of this diſtracted ſociety, you cannot expect a very regular account of it; for which reaſon, I hope you will pardon me that I ſo abruptly ſubſcribe myſelf, Sir, your moſt obedient humble ſervant,

T. B.

I forgot to tell you, that Albina, who has ſix votaries in this club, is one of your readers.

N° XXXI. THURSDAY, APRIL 5.

SIT MIHI FAS AUDITA LOQUI———
VIRG. ÆN. VI. 266.

WHAT I HAVE HEARD, PERMIT ME TO RELATE.

LAST night, upon my going into a coffee-houſe not far from the Haymarket theatre, I diverted myſelf for above half an hour with overhearing the diſcourſe of one, who, by the ſhabbineſs of his dreſs, the extravagance of his conceptions, and the hurry of his ſpeech, I diſcovered to be of that ſpecies who are generally diſtinguiſhed by the title of Projectors. This gentleman, for I found he was treated as ſuch by his audience, was entertaining a whole table of liſteners with the project of an opera, which he told us had not coſt him above two or three mornings in the contrivance, and which he was ready to put in execution, provided he might find his account in it. He ſaid, that he had obſerved the great trouble and inconvenience which ladies were at, in travelling up and down to the ſeveral ſhows that are exhibited in different quarters of the town. The dancing monkies are in one place; the puppet-ſhow in another; the opera in a third; not to mention the lions, that are almoſt a whole day's journey from the politer part of the town. By this means people

people of figure are forced to loſe half the winter after their coming to town, before they have ſeen all the ſtrange ſights about it. In order to remedy this great inconvenience, our projector drew out of his pocket the ſcheme of an opera, entitled, 'The Expedition of Alexander the Great;' in which he had diſpoſed all the remarkable ſhows about town among the ſcenes and decorations of his piece. The thought, he confeſſed, was not originally his own, but that he had taken the hint of it from ſeveral performances which he had ſeen upon our ſtage; in one of which there was a raree-ſhow; in another, a ladder-dance; and in others a poſture-man, a moving picture, with many curioſities of the like nature.

The Expedition of Alexander opens with his conſulting the Oracle at Delphos, in which the dumb conjurer, who has been viſited by ſo many perſons of quality of late years, is to be introduced as telling him his fortune: at the ſame time Clinch of Barnet is repreſented in another corner of the temple, as ringing the bells of Delphos, for joy of his arrival. The tent of Darius is to be peopled by the ingenious Mrs. Salmon, where Alexander is to fall in love with a piece of wax-work, that repreſents the beautiful Statira. When Alexander comes into that country in which Quintus Curtius tells us the dogs were ſo exceeding fierce that they would not loſe their hold, though they were cut to pieces limb by limb, and that they would hang upon their prey by their teeth when they had nothing but a mouth left, there is to be a ſcene of Hockley in the Hole, in which is to be repreſented all the diverſions of that place, the Bull-baiting only excepted, which cannot poſſibly be exhibited in the theatre, by reaſon of the lowneſs of the roof. The ſeveral woods in Aſia, which Alexander muſt be ſuppoſed to paſs through, will give the audience a ſight of monkies dancing upon ropes, with many other pleaſantries of that ludicrous ſpecies. At the ſame time, if there chance to be any ſtrange animals in town, whether bird or beaſts, they may be either let looſe among the woods, or driven acroſs the ſtage by ſome of the country people of Aſia. In the laſt great battle, Pinkethman is to perſonate King Porus upon an elephant, and is to be encountered by Powell, repreſenting Alexander the Great, upon a dromedary, which nevertheleſs Mr. Powell is deſired to call by the name of Bucephalus. Upon the cloſe of this great deciſive battle, when the kings are thoroughly reconciled, to ſhew the mutual friendſhip and good correſpondence that reigns between them, they both of them go together to a puppet-ſhow, in which the ingenious Mr. Powell, junior, may have an opportunity of diſplaying his whole art of machinery, for the diverſion of the two monarchs. Some at the table urged, the puppet ſhow was not a ſuitable entertainment for Alexander the Great; and that it might be introduced more properly, if we ſuppoſe the conqueror touched upon that part of India which is ſaid to be inhabited by the pygmies. But this objection was looked upon as frivolous, and the propoſal immediately over-ruled. Our projector further added, that after the reconciliation of theſe two kings, they might invite one another to dinner, and either of them entertain his gueſt with the German Artiſt, Mr. Pinkethman's Heathen Gods, or any of the like diverſions, which ſhall then chance to be in vogue.

This project was received with very great applauſe by the whole table. Upon which the undertaker told us, that he had not yet communicated to us above half his deſign; for that Alexander being a Greek, it was his intention that the whole opera ſhould be acted in that language, which was a tongue he was ſure would wonderfully pleaſe the ladies, eſpecially when it was a little raiſed and rounded by the Ionic dialect; and could not but be acceptable to the whole audience, becauſe there are fewer of them who underſtand Greek than Italian. The only difficulty that remained, was how to get performers, unleſs we could perſuade ſome gentlemen of the univerſities to learn to ſing, in order to qualify themſelves for the ſtage; but this objection ſoon vaniſhed when the projector informed us that the Greeks were at preſent the only muſicians in the Turkiſh empire, and that it would be very eaſy for our factory at Smyrna, to furniſh us every year with a colony of muſicians, by the opportunity of the Turkey fleet; 'Beſides,' ſays he, 'if 'we want any ſingle voice for any lower 'part in the opera, Lawrence can learn 'to ſpeak Greek, as well as he does 'Italian, in a fortnight's time.'

The

The projector having thus ſettled matters, to the good liking of all that heard him, he left his ſeat at the table, and planted himſelf before the fire, where I had unluckily taken my ſtand for the convenience of overhearing what he ſaid. Whether he had obſerved me to be more attentive than ordinary, I cannot tell, but he had not ſtood by me above a quarter of a minute, but he turned ſhort upon me on a ſudden, and catching me by a button of my coat, attacked me very abruptly after the following manner. 'Beſides, Sir, I have heard of a 'very extraordinary genius for muſic 'that lives in Switzerland; who has ſo 'ſtrong a ſpring in his fingers, that he 'can make the board of an organ 'ſound like a drum; and if I could but 'procure a ſubſcription of about ten 'thouſand pound every winter, I would 'undertake to fetch him over, and oblige him by articles to ſet every thing 'that ſhould be ſung upon the Engliſh 'ſtage.' After this he looked full in my face, expecting I would make an anſwer; when by good luck, a gentleman that had entered the coffee-houſe ſince the projector applied himſelf to me, hearing him talk of his Swiſs compoſitions, cried out with a kind of laugh—'Is our muſic then to receive farther improvement from Switzerland?' This alarmed the projector, who immediately let go my button, and turned about to anſwer him. I took the opportunity of the diverſion which ſeemed to be made in favour of me, and laying down my penny upon the bar, retired with ſome precipitation. C

N° XXXII. FRIDAY, APRIL 6.

NEL ILLI LARVA AUT TRAGICIS OPUS ESSE COTHURNIS.
HOR. SAT. I. V. 64.

HE WANTS NO TRAGIC VISOR TO INCREASE
HIS NATURAL DEFORMITY OF FACE.

THE late diſcourſe concerning the ſtatutes of the Ugly Club, having been ſo well received at Oxford, that, contrary to the ſtrict rules of the ſociety, they have been ſo partial as to take my own teſtimonial, and admit me into that ſelect body; I could not reſtrain the vanity of publiſhing to the world the honour which is done me. It is no ſmall ſatisfaction, that I have given occaſion for the preſident's ſhewing both his invention and reading to ſuch advantage as my correſpondent reports he did: but it is not to be doubted there were many very proper hums and pauſes in his harangue, which loſe their uglineſs in the narration, and which my correſpondent, begging his pardon, has no very good talent at repreſenting. I very much approve of the contempt the ſociety has of beauty: nothing ought to be laudable in a man, in which his will is not concerned; therefore our ſociety can follow nature, and where ſhe has thought fit, as it were, to mock herſelf, we can do ſo too, and be merry upon the occaſion.

MR. SPECTATOR,

YOUR making public the late trouble I gave you, you will find to have been the occaſion of this. Who ſhould I meet at the coffee-houſe door the other night, but my old friend Mr. Preſident? I ſaw ſomewhat had pleaſed him; and as ſoon as he had caſt his eye upon me—'Oho, Doctor, rare news from 'London,' ſays he; 'the Spectator has 'made honourable mention of the club, '(man) and publiſhed to the world his 'ſincere deſire to be a member, with a 'recommendatory deſcription of his 'phiz: and though our conſtitution has 'made no particular proviſion for ſhort 'faces, yet, his being an extraordinary 'caſe, I believe we ſhall find an hole for 'him to creep in at; for I aſſure you he 'is not againſt the canon; and if his 'ſides are as compact as his joles, he 'need not diſguiſe himſelf to make one 'of us.' I preſently called for the paper, to ſee how you looked in print; and after we had regaled ourſelves a while upon the pleaſant image of our proſelyte, Mr. Preſident told me I ſhould be his ſtranger at the next night's club: where we were no ſooner come, and pipes brought, but Mr. Preſident began an harangue upon your introduction to my epiſtle, ſetting forth with no leſs volubility of ſpeech than ſtrength of reaſon, that a ſpeculation of this nature was what had been long and much wanted:

and that he doubted not but it would be of ineſtimable value to the public, in reconciling even of bodies and ſouls: in compoſing and quieting the minds of men under all corporal redundancies, deficiencies, and irregularities whatſoever; and making every one ſit down content in his own carcaſe, though it were not perhaps ſo mathematically put together as he could wiſh. And again, how that for want of a due conſideration of what you firſt advance, viz. that our faces are not of our own chuſing, people had been tranſported beyond all good-breeding, and hurried themſelves into unaccountable and fatal extravagances: as, how many impartial looking-glaſſes had been cenſured and calumniated, nay, and ſometimes ſhivered into ten thouſand ſplinters, only for a fair repreſentation of the truth? How many headſtrings and garters had been made acceſſary, and actually forfeited, only becauſe folks muſt needs quarrel with their own ſhadows? 'And who,' continues he, 'but is 'deeply ſenſible, that one great ſource 'of the uneaſineſs and miſery of human 'life, eſpecially amongſt thoſe of diſtinction, ariſes from nothing in the 'world elſe, but too ſevere a contemplation of an indefeaſible contexture 'of our external parts, or certain natural and invincible diſpoſitions to be 'fat or lean? When a little more of 'Mr. Spectator's philoſophy would take 'off all this; and in the mean time let 'them obſerve, that there is not one of 'their grievances of this ſort, but perhaps, in ſome ages of the world, has 'been highly in vogue; and may be ſo 'again; nay, in ſome country or other, 'ten to one is ſo at this day. My Lady 'Ample is the moſt miſerable woman 'in the world, purely of her own making; ſhe even grudges herſelf meat 'and drink; for fear ſhe ſhould thrive 'by them; and is conſtantly crying 'out—"In a quarter of a year more "I ſhall be quite out of all manner of "ſhape!" Now the lady's misfortune 'ſeems to be only this, that ſhe is planted in a wrong ſoil; for go but to the 'other ſide of the water, it is a jeſt at 'Harlem to talk of a ſhape under eighteen ſtone. Theſe wiſe traders regulate their beauties as they do their butter, by the pound; and Miſs Croſs, 'when ſhe arrived in the Low-Countries, was not computed to be ſo 'handſome as Madam Van Briſket by 'near half a tun. On the other hand, 'there is Squire Lath, a proper gentleman of fifteen hundred pounds per 'annum, as well as of an unblameable 'life and converſation; yet would not 'I be the eſquire for half his eſtate; for 'if it was as much more he would freely 'part with it all for a pair of legs to his 'mind: whereas in the reign of our firſt 'King Edward, of glorious memory, 'nothing more modiſh than a brace of 'your fine taper ſupporters; and his 'Majeſty, with an inch of calf, managed affairs in peace and war as laudably as the braveſt and moſt politic 'of his anceſtors; and was as terrible 'to his neighbours under the royal 'name of Long-ſhanks, as Cœur de 'Lion to the Saracens before him. If 'we look farther back into hiſtory, we 'ſhall find that Alexander the Great 'were his head a little over the left 'ſhoulder; and then not a ſoul ſtirred 'out until he had adjuſted his neck-bone; the whole nobility addreſſed the 'prince and each other obliquely, and 'all matters of importance were concerted and carried on in the Macedonian court with their polls on one ſide. 'For about the firſt century nothing 'made more noiſe in the world than 'Roman noſes, and then not a word of 'them until they revived again in eighty-eight. Nor is it ſo very long ſince 'Richard the Third ſet up half the 'backs of the nation; and high ſhoulders, as well as high noſes, were the 'top of the faſhion. But to come to 'ourſelves, gentlemen, though I find 'by my quinquennial obſervations, that 'we ſhall never get ladies enough to 'make a party in our own country, yet 'might we meet with better ſucceſs 'among ſome of our allies. And what 'think you if our board ſat for a Dutch 'piece? Truly I am of opinion, that as 'odd as we appear in fleſh and blood, 'we ſhould be no ſuch ſtrange things 'in metzo-tinto. But this project may 'reſt until our number is complete; and 'this being our election night, give me 'leave to propoſe Mr. Spectator. You 'ſee his inclinations, and perhaps we 'may not have his fellow.'

I found moſt of them (as is uſual in all ſuch caſes) were prepared; but one of the ſeniors (whom by the bye Mr. Preſident had taken all this pains to bring over) ſat ſtill, and cocking his chin, which ſeemed only to be levelled

at

at his noſe, very gravely declared, that in caſe he had had ſufficient knowledge of you, no man ſhould have been more willing to have ſerved you; but that he, for his part, had always had regard to his own conſcience, as well as other people's merit; and he did not know but that you might be a handſome fellow; for as for your own certificate, it was every body's buſineſs to ſpeak for themſelves. Mr. Preſident immediately retorted—'A handſome fellow! why he 'is a wit, Sir, and you know the 'proverb;' and to eaſe the old gentleman of his ſcruples, cried, that for matter of merit it was all one, you might wear a maſk. This threw him into a pauſe, and he looked deſirous of three days to conſider on it; but Mr. Preſident improved the thought, and followed him up with an old ſtory, that wits were privileged to wear what maſks they pleaſed in all ages; and that a vizard had been the conſtant crown of their labours, which was generally preſented them by the hand of ſome ſatyr, and ſometimes of Apollo himſelf: for the truth of which he appealed to the frontiſpiece of ſeveral books, and particularly to the Engliſh Juvenal, to which he referred him; and only added, that ſuch authors were the Larvati, or Larvâ donati of the ancients. This cleared up all, and in the concluſion you were choſe probationer: and Mr. Preſident put round your health as ſuch, proteſting, that though indeed he talked of a vizard, he did not believe all the while you had any more occaſion for it than the cat-a-mountain; ſo that all you have to do now is to pay your fees, which here are very reaſonable, if you are not impoſed upon: and you may ſtile yourſelf Informis Societatis Socius: which I am deſired to acquaint you with; and upon the ſame I beg you to accept of the congratulation of, Sir, your obliged humble ſervant,

A. C.

OXFORD,
MARCH 21.

N° XXXIII. SATURDAY, APRIL 7.

FERVIDUS TECUM PUER, ET SOLUTIS
GRATIÆ ZONIS, PROPERENTQUE NYMPHÆ,
ET PARUM COMIS SINE TE JUVENTAS,
MERCURIUSQUE. HOR. OD. I. XXX. 5.

THE GRACES WITH THEIR ZONES UNLOOS'D,
THE NYMPHS THEIR BEAUTIES ALL EXPOS'D,
FROM EVERY SPRING, AND EVERY PLAIN;
THY POWERFUL, HOT, AND WINGED BOY,
AND YOUTH THAT'S DULL WITHOUT THY JOY,
AND MERCURY COMPOSE THY TRAIN. CREECH.

A Friend of mine has two daughters, whom I will call Lætitia and Daphne; the former is one of the greateſt beauties of the age in which ſhe lives, the latter no way remarkable for any charms in her perſon. Upon this one circumſtance of their outward form, the good and ill of their life ſeems to turn. Lætitia has not, from her very childhood, heard any thing elſe but commendations of her features and complexion, by which means ſhe is no other than nature made her, a very beautiful out-ſide. The conſciouſneſs of her charms has rendered her inſupportably vain and inſolent towards all who have to do with her. Daphne, who was almoſt twenty before one civil thing had ever been ſaid to her, found herſelf obliged to acquire ſome accompliſhments to make up for the want of thoſe attractions which ſhe ſaw in her ſiſter. Poor Daphne was ſeldom ſubmitted to in a debate wherein ſhe was concerned; her diſcourſe had nothing to recommend it but the good ſenſe of it, and ſhe was always under a neceſſity to have very well conſidered what ſhe was to ſay before ſhe uttered it; while Lætitia was liſtened to with partiality, and approbation ſat in the countenances of thoſe ſhe converſed with, before ſhe communicated what ſhe had to ſay. Theſe cauſes have produced ſuitable effects, and Lætitia is as inſipid a companion, as Daphne is an agreeable one. Lætitia, confident of favour, has ſtudied no arts to pleaſe; Daphne, deſpairing of any inclination

towards her perſon, has depended only on her merit. Lætitia has always ſomething in her air that is ſullen, grave, and diſconſolate. Daphne has a countenance that appears chearful, open, and unconcerned. A young gentleman ſaw Lætitia this winter at a play, and became her captive. His fortune was ſuch, that he wanted very little introduction to ſpeak his ſentiments to her father. The lover was admitted with the utmoſt freedom into the family, where a conſtrained behaviour, ſevere looks and diſtant civilities, were the higheſt favours he could obtain of Lætitia; while Daphne uſed him with the good-humour, familiarity, and innocence of a ſiſter; inſomuch that he would often ſay to her—'Dear Daphne, wert thou but 'as handſome as Lætitia—' She received ſuch language with that ingenuous and pleaſing mirth, which is natural to a woman without deſign. He ſtill ſighed in vain for Lætitia, but found certain relief in the agreeable converſation of Daphne. At length, heartily tired with the haughty impertinence of Lætitia, and charmed with repeated inſtances of good-humour he had obſerved in Daphne, he one day told the latter, that he had ſomething to ſay to her he hoped ſhe would be pleaſed with—'Faith, Daphne,' continued he, 'I 'am in love with thee, and deſpiſe thy 'ſiſter ſincerely.' The manner of his declaring himſelf gave his miſtreſs occaſion for a very hearty laughter. 'Nay,' ſays he, 'I knew you would laugh at 'me, but I'll aſk your father.' He did ſo; the father received his intelligence with no leſs joy than ſurprize, and was very glad he had now no care left but for his beauty, which he thought he could carry to market at his leiſure. I do not know any thing that has pleaſed me ſo much a great while, as this conqueſt of my friend Daphne's. All her acquaintance congratulate her upon her chance-medley, and laugh at that premeditating murderer her ſiſter. As it is an argument of a light mind, to think the worſe of ourſelves for the imperfections of our perſons, it is equally below us to value ourſelves upon the advantages of them. The female world ſeem to be almoſt incorrigibly gone aſtray in this particular; for which reaſon, I ſhall recommend the following extract out of a friend's letter to the profeſſed beauties, who are a people almoſt as inſufferable as the profeſſed wits.

MONSIEUR St. Evremond has concluded one of his eſſays with affirming, that the laſt ſighs of a handſome woman are not ſo much for the loſs of her life as of her beauty. Perhaps this raillery is purſued too far, yet it is turned upon a very obvious remark, that a woman's ſtrongeſt paſſion is for her own beauty, and that ſhe values it as her favourite diſtinction. From hence it is that all arts, which pretend to improve or preſerve it, meet with ſo general a reception among the ſex. To ſay nothing of many falſe helps, and contraband wares of beauty, which are daily vended in this great mart, there is not a maiden gentlewoman of a good family in any country of South Britain, who has not heard of the virtues of May-dew, or is unfurniſhed with ſome receipt or other in favour of her complexion; and I have known a phyſician of learning and ſenſe, after eight years ſtudy in the univerſity, and a courſe of travels into moſt countries in Europe, owe the firſt raiſing of his fortunes to a coſmetic waſh.

This has given me occaſion to conſider how ſo univerſal a diſpoſition in womankind, which ſprings from a laudable motive, the deſire of pleaſing, and proceeds upon an opinion, not altogether groundleſs, that nature may be helped by art, may be turned to their advantage. And, methinks, it would be an acceptable ſervice to take them out of the hands of quacks and pretenders, and to prevent their impoſing upon themſelves, by diſcovering to them the true ſecret and art of improving beauty.

In order to this, before I touch upon it directly, it will be neceſſary to lay down a few preliminary maxims, viz.

That no woman can be handſome by the force of features alone, any more than ſhe can be witty only by the help of ſpeech.

That pride deſtroys all ſymmetry and grace, and affectation is a more terrible enemy to fine faces than the ſmall-pox.

That no woman is capable of being beautiful, who is not incapable of being falſe.

And, that what would be odious in a friend, is deformity in a miſtreſs.

From theſe few principles, thus laid down,

R. Smirke del. Walker sculp.

Plate II. Published as the Act directs by John Walker Dec.r 31.1785.

flown, it will be eaſy to prove, that the true art of aſſiſting beauty conſiſts in embelliſhing the whole perſon by the proper ornaments of virtuous and commendable qualities. By this help alone it is, that thoſe who are the favourite work of nature, or, as Mr. Dryden expreſſes it, the 'Porcelain clay of human 'kind,' become animated, and are in a capacity of exerting their charms; and thoſe who ſeem to have been neglected by her, like models wrought in haſte, are capable in a great meaſure of finiſhing what ſhe has left imperfect.

It is, methinks, a low and degrading idea of that ſex, which was created to refine the joys, and ſoften the cares of humanity, by the moſt agreeable participation, to conſider them merely as objects of ſight. This is abridging them of their natural extent of power, to put them upon a level with their pictures at Kneller's. How much nobler is the contemplation of beauty heightened by virtue, and commanding our eſteem and love, while it draws our obſervation? How faint and ſpiritleſs are the charms of a coquette, when compared with the real lovelineſs of Sophronia's innocence, piety, good humour and truth; virtues which add a new ſoftneſs to her ſex, and even beautify her beauty! That agreeableneſs which muſt otherwiſe have appeared no longer in the modeſt virgin, is now preſerved in the tender mother, the prudent friend, and the faithful wife. Colours artfully ſpread upon canvas may entertain the eye, but not affect the heart; and ſhe who takes no care to add to the natural graces of her perſon any excelling qualities, may be allowed ſtill to amuſe, as a picture, but not to triumph as a beauty.

When Adam is introduced by Milton, deſcribing Eve in Paradiſe, and relating to the angel the impreſſions he felt upon ſeeing her at her firſt creation, he does not repreſent her like a Grecian Venus, by her ſhape or features, but by the luſtre of her mind which ſhone in them, and gave them the power of charming.

Grace was in all her ſteps, Heav'n in her eye,
In all her geſtures dignity and love!

Without this irradiating power the proudeſt fair-one ought to know, whatever her glaſs may tell her to the contrary, that her moſt perfect features are uninformed and dead.

I cannot better cloſe this moral, than by a ſhort epitaph written by Ben Jonſon, with a ſpirit which nothing could inſpire but ſuch an object as I have been deſcribing—

Underneath this ſtone doth lie
As much virtue as could die;
Which when alive did vigour give
To as much beauty as cou'd live.

I am, Sir, your moſt humble ſervant,
R. B.

N° XXXIV. MONDAY, APRIL 9.

——PARCIT
COGNATIS MACULIS SIMILIS FERA.——

JUV. SAT. XV. 159.

FROM SPOTTED SKINS THE LEOPARD DOES REFRAIN. TATE.

THE club of which I am a member, is very luckily compoſed of ſuch perſons as are engaged in different ways of life, and deputed as it were out of the moſt conſpicuous claſſes of mankind: by this means I am furniſhed with the greateſt variety of hints and materials, and know every thing that paſſes in the different quarters and diviſions, not only of this great city, but of the whole kingdom. My readers too have the ſatisfaction to find that there is no rank or degree among them who have not their repreſentative in this club, and that there is always ſomebody preſent who will take care of their reſpective intereſts, that nothing may be written or publiſhed to the prejudice or infringement of their juſt rights and privileges.

I laſt night ſat very late in company with this ſelect body of friends, who entertained me with ſeveral remarks which they and others had made upon theſe my ſpeculations, as alſo with the various ſucceſs which they had met with among their ſeveral ranks and degrees of readers. Will Honeycomb told me, in the ſofteſt manner he could, that there were ſome ladies ('But for your comfort,' ſays

ſays Will, 'they are not thoſe of the 'moſt wit,') that were offended at the liberties I had taken with the opera and the puppet-ſhow; that ſome of them were likewiſe very much ſurprized, that I ſhould think ſuch ſerious points as the dreſs and equipage of perſons of quality, proper ſubjects for raillery.

He was going on, when Sir Andrew Freeport took him up ſhort, and told him, that the papers he hinted at had done great good in the city, and that all their wives and daughters were the better for them; and farther added, that the whole city thought themſelves very much obliged to me for declaring my generous intentions to ſcourge vice and folly as they appear in a multitude, without condeſcending to be a publiſher of particular intrigues and cuckoldoms. 'In ſhort,' ſays Sir Andrew, 'if you 'avoid that fooliſh beaten road of fall-'ing upon aldermen and citizens, and 'employ your pen upon the vanity and 'luxury of courts, your paper muſt 'needs be of general uſe.'

Upon this my friend the Templar told Sir Andrew, that he wondered to hear a man of his ſenſe talk after that manner; that the city had always been the province for ſatire; and that the wits of King Charles's time jeſted upon nothing elſe during his whole reign. He then ſhewed, by the examples of Horace, Juvenal, Boileau, and the beſt writers of every age, that the follies of the ſtate and court had never been accounted too ſacred for ridicule, how great ſoever the perſons might be that patronized them. 'But after all,' ſays he, 'I think your raillery has made too 'great an excurſion, in attacking ſeve-'ral perſons of the inns of court; and I 'do not believe you can ſhew me any 'precedent for your behaviour in that 'particular.'

My good friend Sir Roger de Coverley, who had ſaid nothing all this while, began his ſpeech with a Piſh! and told us, that he wondered to ſee ſo many men of ſenſe ſo very ſerious upon fooleries. 'Let our good friend,' ſays he, 'attack every one that deſerves it; 'I would only adviſe you, Mr. Specta-'tor,' applying himſelf to me, 'to take 'care how you meddle with country 'ſquires; they are the ornaments of the 'Engliſh nation; men of good heads 'and ſound bodies! and let me tell you, 'ſome of them take it ill of you, that 'you mention fox-hunters with ſo lit-'tle reſpect.'

Captain Sentry ſpoke very ſparingly on this occaſion. What he ſaid was only to commend my prudence in not touching upon the army, and adviſed me to continue to act diſcreetly in that point.

By this time I found every ſubject of my ſpeculations was taken away from me, by one or other of the club; and began to think myſelf in the condition of the good man that had one wife who took diſlike to his grey hairs, and another to his black, till by their picking out what each of them had an averſion to, they left his head altogether bald and naked.

While I was thus muſing with myſelf, my worthy friend the clergyman, who very luckily for me was at the club that night, undertook my cauſe. He told us, that he wondered any order of perſons ſhould think themſelves too conſiderable to be adviſed; that it was not quality, but innocence, which exempted men from reproof; that vice and folly ought to be attacked wherever they could be met with, and eſpecially when they were placed in high and conſpicuous ſtations of life. He further added, that my paper would only ſerve to aggravate the pains of poverty, if it chiefly expoſed thoſe who are already depreſſed, and in ſome meaſure turned into ridicule by the meanneſs of their conditions and circumſtances. He afterwards proceeded to take notice of the great uſe this paper might be of to the public, by reprehending thoſe vices which are too trivial for the chaſtiſement of the law, and too fantaſtical for the cognizance of the pulpit. He then adviſed me to proſecute my undertaking with chearfulneſs, and aſſured me, that whoever might be diſpleaſed with me, I ſhould be approved by all thoſe whoſe praiſes do honour to the perſons on whom they are beſtowed.

The whole club pays a particular deference to the diſcourſe of this gentleman, and are drawn into what he ſays, as much by the candid ingenuous manner with which he delivers himſelf, as by the ſtrength of argument and force of reaſon which he makes uſe of. Will Honeycomb immediately agreed, that what he had ſaid was right; and that for his part, he would not inſiſt upon the quarter which he had demanded for

the ladies. Sir Andrew gave up the city with the ſame frankneſs. The Templar would not ſtand out; and was followed by Sir Roger and the Captain; who all agreed that I ſhould be at liberty to carry the war into what quarter I pleaſed; provided I continued to combat with criminals in a body, and to aſſault the vice without hurting the perſon.

This debate, which was held for the good of mankind, put me in mind of that which the Roman triumvirate were formerly engaged in, for their deſtruction. Every man at firſt ſtood hard for his friend, till they found that by this means they ſhould ſpoil their proſcription; and at length, making a ſacrifice of all their acquaintance and relations, furniſhed out a very decent execution.

Having thus taken my reſolutions to march on boldly in the cauſe of virtue and good ſenſe, and to annoy their adverſaries in whatever degree or rank of men they may be found; I ſhall be deaf for the future to all the remonſtrances that ſhall be made to me on this account. If Punch grows extravagant, I ſhall reprimand him very freely: if the ſtage becomes a nurſery of folly and impertinence, I ſhall not be afraid to animadvert upon it. In ſhort, if I meet with any thing in city, court, or country, that ſhocks modeſty or good-manners, I ſhall uſe my utmoſt endeavours to make an example of it. I muſt however intreat every particular perſon, who does me the honour to be a reader of this paper, never to think himſelf, or any one of his friends or enemies, aimed at in what is ſaid: for I promiſe him never to draw a faulty character which does not fit at leaſt a thouſand people; or to publiſh a ſingle paper, that is not written in the ſpirit of benevolence, and with a love to mankind.

C

N° XXXV. TUESDAY, APRIL 10.

RISU INEPTO RES INEPTIOR NULLA EST. MART.

NOTHING SO FOOLISH AS THE LAUGH OF FOOLS.

AMONG all kinds of writing, there is none in which authors are more apt to miſcarry than in works of humour, as there is none in which they are more ambitious to excel. It is not an imagination that teems with monſters, an head that is filled with extravagant conceptions, which is capable of furniſhing the world with diverſions of this nature; and yet if we look into the productions of ſeveral writers, who ſet up for men of humour, what wild irregular fancies, what natural diſtortions of thought, do we meet with? If they ſpeak nonſenſe, they believe they are talking humour; and when they have drawn together a ſcheme of abſurd inconſiſtent ideas, they are not able to read it over to themſelves without laughing. Theſe poor gentlemen endeavour to gain themſelves the reputation of wits and humouriſts, by ſuch monſtrous conceits as almoſt qualify them for Bedlam; not conſidering that humour ſhould always lie under the check of reaſon, and that it requires the direction of the niceſt judgment, by ſo much more as it indulges itſelf in the moſt boundleſs freedoms. There is a kind of nature that is to be obſerved in this ſort of compoſitions, as well as in all other; and a certain regularity of thought which muſt diſcover the writer to be a man of ſenſe, at the ſame time that he appears altogether given up to caprice. For my part, when I read the delirious mirth of an unſkilful author, I cannot be ſo barbarous as to divert myſelf with it, but am rather apt to pity the man, than to laugh at any thing he writes.

The deceaſed Mr. Shadwell, who had himſelf a great deal of the talent which I am treating of, repreſents an empty rake, in one of his plays, as very much ſurpriſed to hear one ſay that breaking of windows was not humour; and I queſtion not but ſeveral Engliſh readers will be as much ſtartled to hear me affirm, that many of thoſe raving incoherent pieces, which are often ſpread among us, under odd chimerical titles, are rather the offſprings of a diſtempered brain, than works of humour.

It is indeed much eaſier to deſcribe what is not humour, than what is; and

and very difficult to define it otherwiſe than, as Cowley has done wit, by negatives. Were I to give my own notions of it, I would deliver them after Plato's manner, in a kind of allegory, and by ſuppoſing humour to be a perſon, deduce to him all his qualifications, according to the following genealogy. Truth was the founder of the family, and the father of Good Senſe. Good Senſe was the father of Wit, married a lady of a collateral line called Mirth, by whom he had iſſue Humour. Humour therefore being the youngeſt of this illuſtrious family, and deſcended from parents of ſuch different diſpoſitions, is very various and unequal in his temper; ſometimes you ſee him putting on grave looks and a ſolemn habit, ſometimes airy in his behaviour and fantaſtic in his dreſs; inſomuch that at different times he appears as ſerious as a judge, and as jocular as a Merry-Andrew. But as he has a great deal of the mother in his conſtitution, whatever mood he is in, he never fails to make his company laugh.

But ſince there is an impoſtor abroad, who takes upon him the name of this young gentleman, and would willingly paſs for him in the world; to the end that well-meaning perſons may not be impoſed upon by cheats, I would deſire my readers, when they meet with this pretender, to look into his parentage, and to examine him ſtrictly, whether or no he be remotely allied to Truth, and lineally deſcended from Good Senſe; if not, they may conclude him a counterfeit. They may likewiſe diſtinguiſh him by a loud and exceſſive laughter, in which he ſeldom gets his company to join with him. For as True Humour generally looks ſerious, while every body laughs about him; Falſe Humour is always laughing, whilſt every body about him looks ſerious. I ſhall only add, if he has not in him a mixture of both parents, that is, if he would paſs for the offſpring of Wit without Mirth, or Mirth without Wit, you may conclude him to be altogether ſpurious, and a cheat.

The impoſtor of whom I am ſpeaking, deſcends originally from Falſhood, who was the mother of Nonſenſe, who was brought to bed of a ſon called Frenzy, who married one of the daughters of Folly, commonly known by the name of Laughter, on whom he begot that monſtrous infant of which I have been here ſpeaking. I ſhall ſet down at length the genealogical table of Falſe Humour, and, at the ſame time, place under it the genealogy of True Humour, that the reader may at one view behold their different pedigrees and relations.

FALSHOOD.
NONSENSE.
FRENZY.——LAUGHTER.
FALSE HUMOUR.

TRUTH.
GOOD SENSE.
WIT.——MIRTH.
HUMOUR.

I might extend the allegory, by mentioning ſeveral of the children of Falſe-Humour, who are more in number than the ſands of the ſea, and might in particular enumerate the many ſons and daughters which he has begot in this iſland. But as this would be a very invidious taſk, I ſhall only obſerve in general, that Falſe Humour differs from the True, as a monkey does from a man.

Firſt of all, He is exceedingly given to little apiſh tricks and buffooneries.

Secondly, He ſo much delights in mimickry, that it is all one to him whether he expoſes by it vice and folly, luxury and avarice; or, on the contrary, virtue and wiſdom, pain and poverty.

Thirdly, He is wonderfully unlucky, inſomuch that he will bite the hand that feeds him, and endeavour to ridicule both friends and foes indifferently. For having but ſmall talents, he muſt be merry where he can, not where he ſhould.

Fourthly, Being intirely void of reaſon, he purſues no point either of morality or inſtruction, but is ludicrous only for the ſake of being ſo.

Fifthly, Being incapable of any thing but mock-repreſentations, his ridicule is always perſonal, and aimed at the vicious man, or the writer; not at the vice, or at the writing.

I have here only pointed at the whole ſpecies of falſe humouriſts; but as one of my principal deſigns in this paper is to beat down that malignant ſpirit, which diſcovers itſelf in the writings of the preſent age, I ſhall not ſcruple, for the future, to ſingle out any of the ſmall wits, that infeſt the world with ſuch compoſitions

compoſitions as are ill-natured, immoral, and abſurd. This is the only exception which I ſhall make to the general rule I have preſcribed myſelf, of attacking multitudes: ſince every honeſt man ought to look upon himſelf as in a natural ſtate of war with the libeller and lampooner, and to annoy them wherever they fall in his way. This is but retaliating upon them, and treating them as they treat others. C

N° XXXVI. WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11.

——IMMANIA MONSTRA
PERFERIMUS—— VIRG. ÆN. III. 583.

THINGS THE MOST OUT OF NATURE WE ENDURE.

I Shall not put myſelf to any farther pains for this day's entertainment, than barely to publiſh the letters and titles of petitions from the play-houſe, with the minutes I have made upon the latter for my conduct in relation to them.

DRURY-LANE, APRIL 9.

UPON reading the project which is ſet forth in one of your late papers, of making an alliance between all the bulls, bears, elephants, and lions, which are ſeparately expoſed to public view in the cities of London and Weſtminſter; together with the other wonders, ſhows, and monſters, whereof you made reſpective mention in the ſaid ſpeculation; We, the chief actors of this play-houſe, met and ſat upon the ſaid deſign. It is with great delight, that we expect the execution of this work; and in order to contribute to it, we have given warning to all our ghoſts to get their livelihoods where they can, and not to appear among us after day-break of the 16th inſtant. We are reſolved to take this opportunity to part with every thing which does not contribute to the repreſentation of human life; and ſhall make a free gift of all animated utenſils to your projector. The hangings you formerly mentioned are run away; as are likewiſe a ſet of chairs, each of which was met upon two legs going through the Roſe Tavern at two this morning. We hope, Sir, you will give proper notice to the town that we are endeavouring at theſe regulations; and that we intend for the future to ſhew no monſters, but men who are converted into ſuch by their own induſtry and affectation. If you will pleaſe to be at the houſe to-night, you will ſee me do my endeavour to ſhew ſome unnatural appearances which are in vogue among the polite and well-bred. I am to repreſent, in the character of a fine lady dancing, all the diſtortions which are frequently taken for graces in mien and geſture. This, Sir, is a ſpecimen of the method we ſhall take to expoſe the monſters which come within the notice of a regular theatre; and we deſire nothing more groſs may be admitted by you ſpectators for the future. We have caſhiered three companies of theatrical guards, and deſign our kings ſhall for the future make love, and ſit in council, without an army; and wait only your directions whether you will have them reinforce King Porus, or join the troops of Macedon. Mr. Penkethman reſolves to conſult his Pantheon of heathen gods in oppoſition to the oracle of Delphos, and doubts not but he ſhall turn the fortunes of Porus, when he perſonates him. I am deſired by the company to inform you, that they ſubmit it to your cenſures; and ſhall have you in greater veneration than Hercules was in of old, if you can drive monſters from the theatre; and think your merit will be as much greater than his, as to convince is more than to conquer. I am, Sir, your moſt obedient ſervant,

T. D.

SIR,

WHEN I acquaint you with the great and unexpected viciſſitudes of my fortune, I doubt not but I ſhall obtain your pity and favour. I have ſo many years laſt paſt been Thunderer to the play-houſe; and have not only made as much noiſe out of the clouds as any predeceſſor of mine in the theatre that ever bore that character, but alſo have deſcended and ſpoke on the ſtage as the Bold Thunder in the Rehearſal.

When they got me down thus low, they thought fit to degrade me further, and make me a ghoſt. I was contented with this for theſe two laſt winters; but they carry their tyranny ſtill further, and not ſatisfied that I am baniſhed from above ground, they have given me to underſtand that I am wholly to depart their dominions, and taken from me even my ſubterraneous employment. Now, Sir, what I deſire of you is, that if your undertaker thinks fit to uſe fire-arms, as other authors have done in the time of Alexander, I may be a cannon againſt Porus, or elſe provide for me in the burning of Perſepolis, or what other method you ſhall think fit.

SALMONEUS OF COVENT GARDEN.

The petition of all the devils of the play-houſe in behalf of themſelves and families, ſetting forth their expulſion from thence, with certificates of their good life and converſation, and praying relief.

The merit of this petition referred to Mr. Chr. Rich, who made them devils.

The petition of the Grave-digger in Hamlet, to command the pioneers in the expedition of Alexander.

Granted.

The petition of William Bullock, to be Hepheſtion to Penkethman the Great.

Granted.

ADVERTISEMENT.

A WIDOW gentlewoman, well born both by father and mother's ſide, being the daughter of Thomas Prater, once an eminent practitioner in the law, and of Letitia Tattle, a family well known in all parts of this kingdom, having been reduced by misfortunes to wait on ſeveral great perſons, and for ſome time to be teacher at a boarding-ſchool of young ladies, giveth notice to the public, that ſhe hath lately taken a houſe near Bloomſbury Square, commodiouſly ſituated next the fields, in a good air; where ſhe teaches all ſorts of birds of the loquacious kinds, as parrots, ſtarlings, magpies, and others, to imitate human voices in greater perfection than ever yet was practiſed. They are not only inſtructed to pronounce words diſtinctly, and in a proper tone and accent, but to ſpeak the language with great purity and volubility of tongue, together with all the faſhionable phraſes and compliments now in uſe either at tea-tables or viſiting-days. Thoſe that have good voices may be taught to ſing the neweſt opera-airs, and, if required, to ſpeak either Italian or French, paying ſomething extraordinary above the common rates. They whoſe friends are not able to pay the full prices may be taken as half-boarders. She teaches ſuch as are deſigned for the diverſion of the public, and to act in inchanted woods on the theatres, by the great. As ſhe has often obſerved with much concern how indecent an education is uſually given theſe innocent creatures, which in ſome meaſure is owing to their being placed in rooms next the ſtreet, where, to the great offence of chaſte and tender ears, they learn ribaldry, obſcene ſongs, and immodeſt expreſſions from paſſengers, and idle people, as alſo to cry fiſh, and card-matches, with other uſeleſs parts of learning to birds who have rich friends; ſhe has fitted up proper and neat apartments for them in the back part of her ſaid houſe; where ſhe ſuffers none to approach them but herſelf, and a ſervant-maid who is deaf and dumb, and whom ſhe provided on purpoſe to prepare their food and cleanſe their cages; having found by long experience how hard a thing it is for thoſe to keep ſilence who have the uſe of ſpeech, and the dangers her ſcholars are expoſed to by the ſtrong impreſſions that are made by harſh ſounds and vulgar dialects. In ſhort, if they are birds of any parts or capacity, ſhe will undertake to render them ſo accompliſhed in the compaſs of a twelvemonth, that they ſhall be fit converſation for ſuch ladies as love to chuſe their friends and companions out of this ſpecies. R

N° XXXVII. THURSDAY, APRIL 12.

——NON ILLA COLO CALATHISVE MINERVÆ
FOEMINEAS ASSUETA MANUS——

VIRG. ÆN. VII. 805.

UNBRED TO SPINNING, IN THE LOOM UNSKILL'D.

DRYDEN.

SOME months ago, my friend Sir Roger being in the country, incloſed a letter to me, directed to a certain lady whom I ſhall here call by the name of Leonora, and, as it contained matters of conſequence, deſired me to deliver it to her with my own hand. Accordingly I waited upon her ladyſhip pretty early in the morning, and was deſired by her woman to walk into her lady's library, till ſuch time as ſhe was in a readineſs to receive me. The very ſound of a lady's library gave me a great curioſity to ſee it; and as it was ſome time before the lady came to me, I had an opportunity of turning over a great many of her books, which were ranged together in a very beautiful order. At the end of the folios, which were finely bound and gilt, were great jars of china placed one above another in a very noble piece of architecture. The quartos were ſeparated from the octavos by a pile of ſmaller veſſels, which roſe in a delightful pyramid. The octavos were bounded by tea-diſhes of all ſhapes, colours, and ſizes, which were ſo diſpoſed on a wooden frame, that they looked like one continued pillar indented with the fineſt ſtrokes of ſculpture, and ſtained with the greateſt variety of dyes. That part of the library which was deſigned for the reception of plays and pamphlets, and other looſe papers, was incloſed in a kind of ſquare, conſiſting of one of the prettieſt groteſque works that ever I ſaw, and made up of ſcaramouches, lions, monkies, mandarines, trees, ſhells, and a thouſand other odd figures in China-ware. In the midſt of the room was a little Japan-table, with a quire of gilt paper upon it, and on the paper a ſilver ſnuff-box made in the ſhape of a little book. I found there were ſeveral other counterfeit books upon the upper ſhelves, which were carved in wood, and ſerved only to fill up the number like faggots in the muſter of a regiment. I was wonderfully pleaſed with ſuch a mixt kind of furniture, as ſeemed very ſuitable both to the lady and the ſcholar, and did not know at firſt whether I ſhould fancy myſelf in a grotto, or in a library.

Upon my looking into the books, I found there were ſome few which the lady had bought for her own uſe, but that moſt of them had been got together, either becauſe ſhe had heard them praiſed, or becauſe ſhe had ſeen the authors of them. Among ſeveral that I examined, I very well remember theſe that follow:

Ogilby's Virgil.
Dryden's Juvenal.
Caſſandra.
Cleopatra.
Aſtræa.
Sir Iſaac Newton's Works.
The Grand Cyrus; with a pin ſtuck in one of the middle leaves.
Pembroke's Arcadia.
Locke of Human Underſtanding; with a paper of patches in it.
A Spelling Book.
A Dictionary for the Explanation of Hard Words.
Sherlock upon Death.
The Fifteen Comforts of Matrimony.
Sir William Temple's Eſſays.
Father Malebranche's Search after Truth, tranſlated into Engliſh.
A Book of Novels.
The Academy of Compliments.
Culpepper's Midwifery.
The Ladies Calling.
Tales in Verſe, by Mr. Durfey: bound in red leather, gilt on the back, and doubled down in ſeveral places.
All the Claſſic Authors in wood.
A ſet of Elzevirs by the ſame hand.
Clelia: which opened of itſelf in the place that deſcribes two lovers in a bower.
Baker's Chronicle.
Advice to a Daughter.
The New Atalantis, with a Key to it.

Mr. Steele's Chriſtian Hero.
A Prayer Book; with a bottle of Hungary water by the ſide of it.
Dr. Sacheverell's Speech.
Fielding's Trial.
Seneca's Morals.
Taylor's Holy Living and Dying.
La Ferte's Inſtructions for Country Dances.

I was taking a catalogue in my pocket-book of theſe, and ſeveral other authors, when Leonora entered, and upon my preſenting her with the letter from the knight, told me, with an unſpeakable grace, that ſhe hoped Sir Roger was in good health: I anſwered, Yes, for I hate long ſpeeches, and after a bow or two retired.

Leonora was formerly a celebrated beauty, and is ſtill a very lovely woman. She has been a widow for two or three years, and, being unfortunate in her firſt marriage, has taken a reſolution never to venture upon a ſecond. She has no children to take care of, and leaves the management of her eſtate to my good friend Sir Roger. But as the mind naturally ſinks into a kind of lethargy, and falls aſleep, that is not agitated by ſome favourite pleaſures and purſuits, Leonora has turned all the paſſions of her ſex into a love of books and retirement. She converſes chiefly with men, as ſhe has often ſaid herſelf, but it is only in their writings; and admits of very few male viſitants, except my friend Sir Roger, whom ſhe hears with great pleaſure, and without ſcandal. As her reading has lain very much among romances, it has given her a very particular turn of thinking, and diſcovers itſelf even in her houſe, her gardens, and her furniture. Sir Roger has entertained me an hour together with a deſcription of her country-ſeat, which is ſituated in a kind of wilderneſs, about an hundred miles diſtant from London, and looks like a little inchanted palace. The rocks about her are ſhaped into artificial grottos covered with woodbines and jeſſamines. The woods are cut into ſhady walks, twiſted into bowers, and filled with cages of turtles. The ſprings are made to run among pebbles, and by that means taught to murmur very agreeably. They are likewiſe collected into a beautiful lake, that is inhabited by a couple of ſwans, and empties itſelf by a little rivulet which runs through a green meadow, and is known in the family by the name of The Purling Stream. The knight likewiſe tells me, that this lady preſerves her game better than any of the gentlemen in the country; 'Not,' ſays Sir Roger, 'that ſhe ſets ſo great a value 'upon her partridges and pheaſants, as 'upon her larks and nightingales. For 'ſhe ſays that every bird which is killed 'in her ground, will ſpoil a concert, 'and that ſhe ſhall certainly miſs him 'the next year.'

When I think how oddly this lady is improved by learning, I look upon her with a mixture of admiration and pity. Amidſt theſe innocent entertainments which ſhe has formed to herſelf, how much more valuable does ſhe appear than thoſe of her ſex, who employ themſelves in diverſions that are leſs reaſonable, though more in faſhion? What improvements would a woman have made, who is ſo ſuſceptible of impreſſions from what ſhe reads, had ſhe been guided to ſuch books as have a tendency to enlighten the underſtanding and rectify the paſſions, as well as to thoſe which are of little more uſe than to divert the imagination?

But the manner of a lady's employing herſelf uſefully in reading ſhall be the ſubject of another paper, in which I deſign to recommend ſuch particular books as may be proper for the improvement of the ſex. And as this is a ſubject of a very nice nature, I ſhall deſire my correſpondents to give me their thoughts upon it. O

N° XXXVIII. FRIDAY, APRIL 13.

——CUPIAS NON PLACUISSE NIMIS. MART.

ONE WOU'D NOT PLEASE TOO MUCH.

A Late converſation which I fell into gave me an opportunity of obſerving a great deal of beauty in a very handſome woman, and as much wit in an ingenious man, turned into deformity in the one, and abſurdity in the other, by the mere force of affectation. The fair-one had ſomething in her perſon upon which her thoughts were fixed, that ſhe attempted to ſhew to advantage in every look, word, and geſture. The gentleman was as diligent to do juſtice to his fine parts, as the lady to her beauteous form: you might ſee his imagination on the ſtretch to find out ſomething uncommon, and what they call bright, to entertain her; while ſhe writhed herſelf into as many different poſtures to engage him. When ſhe laughed, her lips were to ſever at a greater diſtance than ordinary, to ſhew her teeth; her fan was to point to ſomewhat at a diſtance, that in the reach ſhe may diſcover the roundneſs of her arm; then ſhe is utterly miſtaken in what ſhe ſaw, falls back, ſmiles at her own folly, and is ſo wholly diſcompoſed, that her tucker is to be adjuſted, her boſom expoſed, and the whole woman put into new airs and graces. While ſhe was doing all this, the gallant had time to think of ſomething very pleaſant to ſay to her, or make ſome unkind obſervation on ſome other lady to feed her vanity. Theſe unhappy effects of affectation, naturally led me to look into that ſtrange ſtate of mind which ſo generally diſcolours the behaviour of moſt people we meet with.

The learned Dr. Burnet, in his Theory of the Earth, takes occaſion to obſerve, that every thought is attended with conſciouſneſs and repreſentativeneſs; the mind has nothing preſented to it but what is immediately followed by a reflection or conſcience, which tells you whether that which was ſo preſented is graceful or unbecoming. This act of the mind diſcovers itſelf in the geſture, by a proper behaviour in thoſe whoſe conſciouſneſs goes no further than to direct them in the juſt progreſs of their preſent thought or action; but betrays an interruption in every ſecond thought, when the conſciouſneſs is employed in too fondly approving a man's own conceptions: which ſort of conſciouſneſs is what we call affectation.

As the love of praiſe is implanted in our boſoms as a ſtrong incentive to worthy actions, it is a very difficult taſk to get above a deſire of it for things that ſhould be wholly indifferent. Women, whoſe hearts are fixed upon the pleaſure they have in the conſciouſneſs that they are the objects of love and admiration, are ever changing the air of their countenances, and altering the attitude of their bodies, to ſtrike the hearts of the beholders with new ſenſe of their beauty. The dreſſing part of our ſex, whoſe minds are the ſame with the fillier part of the other, are exactly in the like uneaſy condition to be regarded for a well-tied cravat, an hat cocked with an unuſual briſkneſs, a very well choſen coat, or other inſtances of merit, which they are impatient to ſee unobſerved.

But this apparent affectation, ariſing from an ill-governed conſciouſneſs, is not ſo much to be wondered at in ſuch looſe and trivial minds as theſe; but when you ſee it reign in characters of worth and diſtinction, it is what you cannot but lament, not without ſome indignation. It creeps into the heart of the wiſe man as well as that of the coxcomb. When you ſee a man of ſenſe look about for applauſe, and diſcover an itching inclination to be commended; lays traps for a little incenſe, even from thoſe whoſe opinion he values in nothing but his own favour; who is ſafe againſt this weakneſs? or who knows whether he is guilty of it or not? The beſt way to get clear of ſuch a light fondneſs for applauſe is to take all poſſible care to throw off the love of it upon occaſions that are not in themſelves laudable, but as it appears, we hope for no praiſe from them. Of this nature are all graces in men's perſons, dreſs, and bodily deportment; which will naturally be winning attractive if we think not of them, but loſe their force in proportion

portion to our endeavour to make them ſuch.

When our conſciouſneſs turns upon the main deſign of life, and our thoughts are employed upon the chief purpoſe either in buſineſs or pleaſure, we ſhall never betray an affectation, for we cannot be guilty of it; but when we give the paſſion for praiſe an unbridled liberty, our pleaſure in little perfections robs us of what is due to us for great virtues and worthy qualities. How many excellent ſpeeches and honeſt actions are loſt, for want of being indifferent where we ought? Men are oppreſſed with regard to their way of ſpeaking and acting, inſtead of having their thoughts bent upon what they ſhould do or ſay; and by that means bury a capacity for great things by their fear of failing in indifferent things. This, perhaps, cannot be called affectation; but it has ſome tincture of it, at leaſt ſo far, as that their fear of erring in a thing of no conſequence, argues they would be too much pleaſed in performing it.

It is only from a thorough diſregard to himſelf in ſuch particulars, that a man can act with a laudable ſufficiency; his heart is fixed upon one point in view; and he commits no errors, becauſe he thinks nothing an error but what deviates from that intention.

The wild havock affectation makes in that part of the world which ſhould be moſt polite, is viſible wherever we turn our eyes: it puſhes men not only into impertinencies in converſation, but alſo in their premeditated ſpeeches. At the bar it torments the bench, whoſe buſineſs it is to cut off all ſuperfluities in what is ſpoken before it by the practitioner, as well as ſeveral little pieces of injuſtice which ariſe from the law itſelf. I have ſeen it make a man run from the purpoſe before a judge, who was, when at the bar himſelf, ſo cloſe and logical a pleader, that with all the pomp of eloquence in his power, he never ſpoke a word too much.

It might be borne even here, but it often aſcends the pulpit itſelf: and the declaimer, in that ſacred place, is frequently ſo impertinently witty, ſpeaks of the laſt day itſelf with ſo many quaint phraſes, that there is no man who underſtands raillery, but muſt reſolve to ſin no more: nay, you may behold him ſometimes in prayer, for a proper delivery of the great truths he is to utter, humble himſelf with ſo very well-turned a phraſe, and mention his own unworthineſs in a way ſo very becoming, that the air of the pretty gentleman is preſerved, under the lowlineſs of the preacher.

I ſhall end this with a ſhort letter I writ the other day to a witty man, overrun with the fault I am ſpeaking of.

DEAR SIR,

I Spent ſome time with you the other day, and muſt take the liberty of a friend to tell you of the unſufferable affectation you are guilty of in all you ſay and do. When I gave you an hint of it, you aſked me whether a man is to be cold to what his friends think of him? No; but praiſe is not to be the entertainment of every moment; he that hopes for it muſt be able to ſuſpend the poſſeſſion of it till proper periods of life, or death itſelf. If you would not rather be commended than be praiſe-worthy, contemn little merits; and allow no man to be ſo free with you, as to praiſe you to your face. Your vanity by this means will want it's food. At the ſame time your paſſion for eſteem will be more fully gratified; men will praiſe you in their actions: where you now receive one compliment, you will then receive twenty civilities. Till then you will never have of either, further than,

Sir, Your humble ſervant,

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N° XXXIX. SATURDAY, APRIL 14.

MULTO FERO, UT PLACEM GENUS IRRITABILE VATUM,
CUM SCRIBO———————————

HOR. EP. II. II. 102.

IMITATED.

MUCH DO I SUFFER, MUCH, TO KEEP IN PEACE
THIS JEALOUS, WASPISH, WRONG-HEAD, RHIMING RACE. POPE.

AS a perfect tragedy is the nobleſt production of human nature, ſo it is capable of giving the mind one of the moſt delightful and moſt improving entertainments. 'A virtuous man,' ſays Seneca, 'ſtruggling with misfortunes, is ſuch a ſpectacle as gods 'might look upon with pleaſure;' and ſuch a pleaſure it is which one meets with in the repreſentation of a well-written tragedy. Diverſions of this kind wear out of our thoughts every thing that is mean and little. They cheriſh and cultivate that humanity which is the ornament of our nature. They ſoften inſolence, ſoothe affliction, and ſubdue the mind to the diſpenſations of providence.

It is no wonder therefore that in all the polite nations of the world, this part of the drama has met with public encouragement.

The modern tragedy excels that of Greece and Rome in the intricacy and diſpoſition of the fable; but, what a Chriſtian writer would be aſhamed to own, falls infinitely ſhort of it in the moral part of the performance.

This I may ſhew more at large hereafter; and in the mean time, that I may contribute ſomething towards the improvement of the Engliſh tragedy, I ſhall take notice, in this and in other following papers, of ſome particular parts in it that ſeem liable to exception.

Ariſtotle obſerves, that the Iambic verſe in the Greek tongue was the moſt proper for tragedy; becauſe at the ſame time that it lifted up the diſcourſe from proſe, it was that which approached nearer to it than any other kind of verſe. 'For,' ſays he, 'we may obſerve that men in ordinary diſcourſe very often ſpeak Iambics, without taking notice of it.' We make the ſame obſervation of our Engliſh blank verſe, which often enters into our common diſcourſe, though we do not attend to it, and is ſuch a due medium between rhyme and proſe, that it ſeems wonderfully adapted to tragedy. I am therefore very much offended when I ſee a play in rhyme; which is as abſurd in Engliſh, as a tragedy of Hexameters would have been in Greek or Latin. The ſoleciſm is, I think, ſtill greater in thoſe plays that have ſome ſcenes in rhyme and ſome in blank verſe, which are to be looked upon as two ſeveral languages; or where we ſee ſome particular families dignified with rhyme, at the ſame time that every thing about them lies in blank verſe. I would not however debar the poet from concluding his tragedy, or, if he pleaſes, every act of it, with two or three couplets, which may have the ſame effect as an air in the Italian opera after a long recitativo, and give the actor a graceful exit. Beſides, that we ſee a diverſity of numbers in ſome parts of the old tragedy, in order to hinder the ear from being tired with the ſame continued modulation of voice. For the ſame reaſon I do not diſlike the ſpeeches in our Engliſh tragedy that cloſe with an Hemiſtic, or half verſe, notwithſtanding the perſon who ſpeaks after it begins a new verſe; without filling up the preceding one: nor with abrupt pauſes and breakings-off in the middle of a verſe, when they humour any paſſion that is expreſſed by it.

Since I am upon this ſubject, I muſt obſerve that our Engliſh poets have ſucceeded much better in the ſtile, than in the ſentiments of their tragedies. Their language is very often noble and ſonorous, but the ſenſe either very trifling or very common. On the contrary, in the ancient tragedies, and indeed, in thoſe of Corneille and Racine, though the expreſſions are very great, it is the thought that bears them up and ſwells them. For my own part, I prefer a noble ſentiment that is depreſſed with homely language, infinitely before a vulgar one that is blown up with all the

ſound

ſound and energy of expreſſion. Whether this defect in our tragedies may ariſe from want of genius, knowledge, or experience in the writers, or from their compliance with the vicious taſte of their readers, who are better judges of the language than of the ſentiments, and conſequently reliſh the one more than the other, I cannot determine. But I believe it might rectify the conduct both of the one and of the other, if the writer laid down the whole contexture of his dialogue in plain Engliſh, before he turned it into blank verſe; and if the reader, after the peruſal of a ſcene, would conſider the naked thought of every ſpeech in it, when diveſted of all it's tragic ornaments. By this means, without being impoſed upon by words, we may judge impartially of the thought, and conſider whether it be natural or great enough for the perſon that utters it, whether it deſerves to ſhine in ſuch a blaze of eloquence, or ſhew itſelf in ſuch a variety of lights as are generally made uſe of by the writers of our Engliſh tragedy.

I muſt in the next place obſerve, that when our thoughts are great and juſt, they are often obſcured by the ſounding phraſes, hard metaphors, and forced expreſſions in which they are cloathed. Shakeſpeare is often very faulty in this particular. There is a fine obſervation in Ariſtotle to this purpoſe, which I have never ſeen quoted. 'The expreſ-'ſion,' ſays he, 'ought to be very much 'laboured in the unactive parts of the 'fable, as in deſcriptions, ſimilitudes, 'narrations, and the like; in which the 'opinions, manners, and paſſions of 'men are not repreſented: for theſe, 'namely, the opinions, manners, and 'paſſions, are apt to be obſcured by 'pompous phraſes and elaborate ex-'preſſions.' Horace, who copied moſt of his criticiſms after Ariſtotle, ſeems to have had his eye on the foregoing rule, in the following verſes:

Et Tragicus plerumque dolet ſermone pedeſtri:
Telephus et Peleus, cum pauper et exul uterque,
Projicit ampullas et ſeſquipedalia verba,
Si curat cor ſpectantis tetigiſſe querelâ.

ARS POET. VER. 95.

Tragedians too lay by their ſtate to grieve:
Peleus and Telephus, exil'd and poor,
Forgot their ſwelling and gigantic words.

ROSCOMMON.

Among our modern Engliſh poets, there is none who was better turned for tragedy than Lee; if, inſtead of favouring the impetuoſity of his genius, he had reſtrained it, and kept it within it's proper bounds. His thoughts are wonderfully ſuited to tragedy, but frequently loſt in ſuch a cloud of words, that it is hard to ſee the beauty of them; there is an infinite fire in his works, but ſo involved in ſmoke, that it does not appear in half it's luſtre. He frequently ſucceeds in the paſſionate parts of the tragedy, but more particularly where he ſlackens his efforts, and eaſes the ſtile of thoſe epithets and metaphors, in which he ſo much abounds. What can be more natural, more ſoft, or more paſſionate, than that line in Statira's ſpeech, where ſhe deſcribes the charms of Alexander's converſation?

Then he would talk—Good gods! how he would talk!

That unexpected break in the line, and turning the deſcription of his manner of talking into an admiration of it, is inexpreſſibly beautiful, and wonderfully ſuited to the fond character of the perſon that ſpeaks it. There is a ſimplicity in the words, that outſhines the utmoſt pride of expreſſion.

Otway has followed nature in the language of his tragedy, and therefore ſhines in the paſſionate parts more than any of our Engliſh poets. As there is ſomething familiar and domeſtic in the fable of his tragedy, more than in thoſe of any other poet, he has little pomp, but great force in his expreſſions. For which reaſon, though he has admirably ſucceeded in the tender and melting part of his tragedies, he ſometimes falls into too great a familiarity of phraſe in thoſe parts, which, by Ariſtotle's rule, ought to have been raiſed and ſupported by the dignity of expreſſion.

It has been obſerved by others, that this poet has founded his tragedy of Venice Preſerv'd on ſo wrong a plot, that the greateſt characters in it are thoſe of rebels and traitors. Had the hero of his play diſcovered the ſame good qualities in the defence of his country, that he ſhewed for it's ruin and ſubverſion, the audience could not enough pity and admire him; but as he is now repreſented, we can only ſay of him what the Roman hiſtorian ſays of Catiline, that his fall would have been glorious (*ſi pro Patriâ ſic concidiſſet*) had he ſo fallen in the ſervice of his country.

N° XL. MONDAY, APRIL 16.

AC NE FORTE PUTES, ME, QUÆ FACERE IPSE RECUSEM,
CUM RECTE TRACTENT ALII, LAUDARE MALIGNE;
ILLE PER EXTENTUM FUNEM MIHI POSSE VIDETUR
IRE POETA, MEUM QUI PECTUS INANITER ANGIT,
IRRITAT, MULCET, FALSIS TERRORIBUS IMPLET,
UT MAGUS; ET MODO ME THEBIS, MODO PONIT ATHENIS.
HOR. EP. II. 1. 208.

IMITATED.

YET LEST YOU THINK I RALLY MORE THAN TEACH,
OR PRAISE MALIGNLY ARTS I CANNOT REACH,
LET ME FOR ONCE PRESUME T' INSTRUCT THE TIMES,
TO KNOW THE POET FROM THE MAN OF RHYMES.
'TIS HE WHO GIVES MY BREAST A THOUSAND PAINS,
CAN MAKE ME FEEL EACH PASSION THAT HE FEIGNS;
ENRAGE, COMPOSE, WITH MORE THAN MAGIC ART,
WITH PITY, AND WITH TERROR, TEAR MY HEART;
AND SNATCH ME, O'ER THE EARTH, OR THRO' THE AIR,
TO THEBES, TO ATHENS, WHEN HE WILL, AND WHERE. POPE.

THE Engliſh writers of tragedy are poſſeſſed with a notion, that when they repreſent a virtuous or innocent perſon in diſtreſs, they ought not to leave him till they have delivered him out of his troubles, or made him triumph over his enemies. This error they have been led into by a ridiculous doctrine in modern criticiſm, that they are obliged to an equal diſtribution of rewards and puniſhments, and an impartial execution of poetical juſtice. Who were the firſt that eſtabliſhed this rule I know not; but I am ſure it has no foundation in nature, in reaſon, or in the practice of the ancients. We find that good and evil happen alike to all men on this ſide the grave; and as the principal deſign of tragedy is to raiſe commiſeration and terror in the minds of the audience, we ſhall defeat this great end, if we always make virtue and innocence happy and ſucceſsful. Whatever croſſes and diſappointments a good man ſuffers in the body of the tragedy, they will make but ſmall impreſſion on our minds, when we know that in the laſt act he is to arrive at the end of his wiſhes and deſires. When we ſee him engaged in the depth of his afflictions, we are apt to comfort ourſelves, becauſe we are ſure he will find his way out of them; and that his grief, how great ſoever it may be at preſent, will ſoon terminate in gladneſs. For this reaſon the ancient writers of tragedy treated men in their plays as they are dealt with in the world, by making virtue ſometimes happy and ſometimes miſerable, as they found it in the fable which they made choice of, or as it might affect their audience in the moſt agreeable manner. Ariſtotle conſiders the tragedies that were written in either of theſe kinds, and obſerves, that thoſe which ended unhappily had always pleaſed the people, and carried away the prize in the public diſputes of the ſtage, from thoſe that ended happily. Terror and commiſeration leave a pleaſing anguiſh in the mind; and fix the audience in ſuch a ſerious compoſure of thought, as is much more laſting and delightful than any little tranſient ſtart of joy and ſatisfaction. Accordingly we find that more of our Engliſh tragedies have ſucceeded, in which the favourites of the audience ſink under their calamities, than thoſe in which they recover themſelves out of them. The beſt plays of this kind are the Orphan, Venice Preſerved, Alexander the Great, Theodoſius, All for Love, Oedipus, Oroonoko, Othello, &c. King Lear is an admirable tragedy of the ſame kind, as Shakeſpeare wrote it; but as it is reformed according to the chimerical notion of poetical juſtice, in my humble opinion it has loſt half it's beauty. At the ſame time I muſt allow, that there are very noble tragedies, which have been framed upon the other plan, and have ended happily; as indeed moſt of the good tragedies which have been written

ſince the ſtarting of the above-mentioned criticiſm, have taken this turn: as the Mourning Bride, Tamerlane, Ulyſſes, Phædra and Hippolitus, with moſt of Mr. Dryden's. I muſt alſo allow, that many of Shakeſpeare's, and ſeveral of the celebrated tragedies of antiquity, are caſt in the ſame form. I do not therefore diſpute againſt this way of writing tragedies, but againſt the criticiſm that would eſtabliſh this as the only method: and by that means would very much cramp the Engliſh tragedy, and perhaps give a wrong bent to the genius of our writers.

The tragi-comedy, which is the product of the Engliſh theatre, is one of the moſt monſtrous inventions that ever entered into a poet's thoughts. An author might as well think of weaving the adventures of Æneas and Hudibras into one poem, as of writing ſuch a motley piece of mirth and ſorrow. But the abſurdity of theſe performances is ſo very viſible, that I ſhall not inſiſt upon it.

The ſame objections which are made to tragi-comedy, may in ſome meaſure be applied to all tragedies that have a double plot in them, which are likewiſe more frequent upon the Engliſh ſtage than upon any other; for though the grief of the audience, in ſuch performances, be changed into another paſſion, as in tragi-comedies; it is diverted upon another object, which weakens their concern for the principal action, and breaks the tide of ſorrow, by throwing it into different channels. This inconvenience, however, may in a great meaſure be cured, if not wholly removed, by the ſkilful choice of an under-plot, which may bear ſuch a near relation to the principal deſign, as to contribute towards the completion of it, and be concluded by the ſame cataſtrophe.

There is alſo another particular, which may be reckoned among the blemiſhes, or rather the falſe beauties, of our Engliſh tragedy: I mean thoſe particular ſpeeches which are commonly known by the name of rants. The warm and paſſionate parts of a tragedy are always the moſt taking with the audience; for which reaſon we often ſee the players pronouncing, in all the violence of action, ſeveral parts of the tragedy which the author writ with great temper, and deſigned that they ſhould have been ſo acted. I have ſeen Powell very often raiſe himſelf a loud clap by this artifice. The poets that were acquainted with this ſecret, have given frequent occaſion for ſuch emotions in the actor, by adding vehemence to words where there was no paſſion, or inflaming a real paſſion into fuſtian. This hath filled the mouths of our heroes with bombaſt; and given them ſuch ſentiments, as proceed rather from a ſwelling than a greatneſs of mind. Unnatural exclamations, curſes, vows, blaſphemies, a defiance of mankind, and an outraging of the gods, frequently paſs upon the audience for towering thoughts, and have accordingly met with infinite applauſe.

I ſhall here add a remark, which I am afraid our tragic writers may make an ill uſe of. As our heroes are generally lovers, their ſwelling and bluſtering upon the ſtage very much recommends them to the fair part of their audience. The ladies are wonderfully pleaſed to ſee a man inſulting kings, or affronting the gods in one ſcene, and throwing himſelf at the feet of his miſtreſs in another. Let him behave himſelf inſolently towards the men, and abjectly towards the fair-one, and it is ten to one but he proves a favourite of the boxes. Dryden and Lee, in ſeveral of their tragedies, have practiſed this ſecret with good ſucceſs.

But to ſhew how a rant pleaſes beyond the moſt juſt and natural thought that is not pronounced with vehemence, I would deſire the reader, when he ſees the tragedy of Œdipus, to obſerve how quietly the hero is diſmiſſed at the end of the third act, after having pronounced the following lines, in which the thought is very natural, and apt to move compaſſion:

To you, good gods, I make my laſt appeal;
Or clear my virtues, or my crimes reveal.
If in the maze of fate I blindly run,
And backward tread thoſe paths I ſought to ſhun;
Impute my errors to your own decree:
My hands are guilty, but my heart is free.

Let us then obſerve with what thunder-claps of applauſe he leaves the ſtage, after the impieties and execrations at the end of the fourth act; and you will wonder to ſee an audience ſo curſed and ſo pleaſed at the ſame time:

O that

O that as oft I have at Athens ſeen

[Where, by the way, there was no ſtage till many years after Oedipus.]

The ſtage ariſe, and the big clouds deſcend;
So now, in every deed I might behold
This pond'rous globe, and all yon marble roof,
Meet, like the hands of Jove, and cruſh mankind.
For all the elements, &c.

ADVERTISEMENT.

HAVING ſpoken of Mr. Powell, as ſometimes raiſing himſelf applauſe from the ill taſte of an audience; I muſt do him the juſtice to own, that he is excellently formed for a tragedian, and, when he pleaſes, deſerves the admiration of the beſt judges; as I doubt not but he will in the Conqueſt of Mexico, which is acted for his own benefit tomorrow night. C

N° XLI. TUESDAY, APRIL 17.

TU NON INVENTA REPERTA ES.

OVID. MET. I. 654.

SO FOUND, IS WORSE THAN LOST. ADDISON.

COMPASSION for the gentleman who writes the following letter, ſhould not prevail upon me to fall upon the fair-ſex, if it were not that I find they are frequently fairer than they ought to be. Such impoſtures are not to be tolerated in civil ſociety; and I think his misfortune ought to be made public, as a warning for other men always to examine into what they admire.

SIR,

SUPPOSING you to be a perſon of general knowledge, I make my application to you on a very particular occaſion. I have a great mind to be rid of my wife, and hope, when you conſider my caſe, you will be of opinion I have very juſt pretenſions to a divorce. I am a mere man of the town, and have very little improvement, but what I have got from plays. I remember in The Silent Woman, the learned Dr. Cutberd, or Dr. Otter, I forget which, makes one of the cauſes of ſeparation to be *Error Perſonæ*, when a man marries a woman, and finds her not to be the ſame woman whom he intended to marry, but another. If that be law, it is, I preſume, exactly my caſe. For you are to know, Mr. Spectator, that there are women who do not let their huſbands ſee their faces till they are married.

Not to keep you in ſuſpenſe, I mean plainly that part of the ſex who paint. They are ſome of them ſo exquiſitely ſkilful this way, that give them but a tolerable pair of eyes to ſet up with, and they will make boſom, lips, cheeks, and eyebrows, by their own induſtry. As for my dear, never man was ſo enamoured as I was of her fair forehead, neck, and arms, as well as the bright jet of her hair; but to my great aſtoniſhment I find they were all the effects of art; her ſkin is ſo tarniſhed with this practice, that when ſhe firſt wakes in a morning, ſhe ſcarce ſeems young enough to be the mother of her whom I carried to bed the night before. I ſhall take the liberty to part with her by the firſt opportunity, unleſs her father will make her portion ſuitable to her real, not her aſſumed, countenance. This I thought fit to let him and her know by your means. I am, Sir,

Your moſt obedient, humble ſervant.

I cannot tell what the law, or th parents of the lady, will do for this injured gentleman, but muſt allow he has very much juſtice on his ſide. I have indeed very long obſerved this evil, and diſtinguiſhed thoſe of our women who wear their own, from thoſe in borrowed complexions, by the Picts and the Britiſh. There does not need any great diſcernment to judge which are which. The Britiſh have a lively animated aſpect; the Picts, though never ſo beautiful, have dead uninformed countenances. The muſcles of a real face ſometimes ſwell with ſoft paſſion, ſudden ſurpriſe, and are fluſhed with agreeable confuſions, according as the objects before them, or the ideas preſented to them, affect their imagination. But the Picts behold all things with the ſame air, whether they are joyful or ſad; the ſame fixed inſenſibility appears upon all

occaſions. A Pict, though ſhe takes all that pains to invite the approach of lovers, is obliged to keep them at a certain diſtance; a ſigh in a languiſhing lover, if fetched too near her, would diſſolve a feature; and a kiſs ſnatched by a forward one, might transfer the complexion of the miſtreſs to the admirer. It is hard to ſpeak of theſe falſe fair ones, without ſaying ſomething uncomplaiſant, but I would only recommend to them to conſider how they like coming into a room new-painted; they may aſſure themſelves, the near approach of a lady who uſes this practice is much more offenſive.

Will Honeycomb told us, one day, an adventure he once had with a Pict. This lady had wit, as well as beauty, at will; and made it her buſineſs to gain hearts, for no other reaſon but to rally the torments of her lovers. She would make great advances to inſnare men, but without any manner of ſcruple break off when there was no provocation. Her ill-nature and vanity made my friend very eaſily proof againſt the charms of her wit and converſation; but her beauteous form, inſtead of being blemiſhed by her falſhood and inconſtancy, every day increaſed upon him, and ſhe had new attractions every time he ſaw her. When ſhe obſerved Will irrevocably her ſlave, ſhe began to uſe him as ſuch, and after many ſteps towards ſuch a cruelty, ſhe at laſt utterly baniſhed him. The unhappy lover ſtrove in vain, by ſervile epiſtles, to revoke his doom; till at length he was forced to the laſt refuge, a round ſum of money to her maid. This corrupt attendant placed him early in the morning behind the hangings in her miſtreſs's dreſſing-room. He ſtood very conveniently to obſerve, without being ſeen. The Pict begins the face ſhe deſigned to wear that day, and I have heard him proteſt ſhe had worked a full half hour before he knew her to be the ſame woman. As ſoon as he ſaw the dawn of that complexion, for which he had ſo long languiſhed, he thought fit to break from his concealment, repeating that of Cowley—

Th' adorning thee with ſo much art,
Is but a barb'rous ſkill:
'Tis like the pois'ning of a dart,
Too apt before to kill.

The Pict ſtood before him in the utmoſt confuſion, with the prettieſt ſmirk imaginable on the finiſhed ſide of her face, pale as aſhes on the other. Honeycomb ſeized all her gallypots and waſhes, and carried off his handkerchief full of bruſhes, ſcraps of Spaniſh wool, and phials of unguents. The lady went into the country, the lover was cured.

It is certain no faith ought to be kept with cheats, and an oath made to a Pict is of itſelf void. I would therefore exhort all the Britiſh ladies to ſingle them out; nor do I know any but Lindamira who ſhould be exempt from diſcovery; for her own complexion is ſo delicate, that ſhe ought to be allowed the covering it with paint, as a puniſhment for chuſing to be the worſt piece of art extant, inſtead of the maſterpiece of nature. As for my part, who have no expectations from women, and conſider them only as they are part of the ſpecies, I do not half ſo much fear offending a beauty as a woman of ſenſe; I ſhall therefore produce ſeveral faces which have been in public this many years, and never appeared. It will be a very pretty entertainment in the play-houſe, when I have aboliſhed this cuſtom, to ſee ſo many ladies, when they firſt lay it down, incog. in their own faces.

In the mean time, as a pattern for improving their charms, let the ſex ſtudy the agreeable Statira. Her features are enlivened with the chearfulneſs of her mind, and good-humour gives an alacrity to her eyes. She is graceful without affecting an air, and unconcerned without appearing careleſs. Her having no manner of art in her mind, makes her want none in her perſon.

How like is this lady, and how unlike is a Pict, to that deſcription Dr. Donne gives of his miſtreſs!

——— Her pure and eloquent blood
Spoke in her cheeks, and ſo diſtinctly wrought,
That one would almoſt ſay her body thought.

ADVERTISEMENT.

A YOUNG gentlewoman of about nineteen years of age (bred in the family of a perſon of quality lately deceaſed) who paints the fineſt fleſh colour, wants a place, and is to be heard of at the houſe of Minheer Groteſque, a Dutch painter in Barbican.

N. B. She is alſo well-ſkilled in the drapery-part, and puts on hoods, and mixes ribbons ſo as to ſuit the colours of the face with great art and ſucceſs.

N° XLII. WEDNESAY, APRIL 18.

GARGANUM MUGIRE PUTES NEMUS, AUT MARE TUSCUM;
TANTO CUM STREPITU LUDI SPECTANTUR, ET ARTES,
DIVITIÆQUE PEREGRINÆ; QUIBUS OBLITUS ACTOR
CUM STETIT IN SCENA, CONCURRIT DEXTERA LÆVÆ.
DIXIT ADHUC ALIQUID? NIL SANE. QUID PLACET ERGO?
LANA TARENTINO VIOLAS IMITATA VENENO.

HOR. EP. II. 1. 202.

IMITATED.

LOUD AS THE WOLVES, ON ORCA'S STORMY STEEP,
HOWL TO THE ROARINGS OF THE NORTHERN DEEP;
SUCH IS THE SHOUT, THE LONG APPLAUDING NOTE,
AT QUIN'S HIGH PLUME, OR OLDFIELD'S PETTICOAT;
OR WHEN FROM COURT A BIRTH-DAY SUIT BESTOW'D
SINKS THE LOST ACTOR IN THE TAWDRY LOAD.
BOOTH ENTERS—HARK! THE UNIVERSAL PEAL!——
BUT HAS HE SPOKEN?—NOT A SYLLABLE.——
WHAT SHOOK THE STAGE, AND MADE THE PEOPLE STARE?—
CATO'S LONG WHIG, FLOW'R'D GOWN, AND LACQUER'D CHAIR.

POPE.

ARISTOTLE has obſerved, that ordinary writers in tragedy endeavour to raiſe terror and pity in their audience, not by proper ſentiments and expreſſions, but by the dreſſes and decorations of the ſtage. There is ſomething of this kind very ridiculous in the Engliſh theatre. When the author has a mind to terrify us, it thunders; when he would make us melancholy, the ſtage is darkened. But among all our tragic artifices, I am the moſt offended at thoſe which are made uſe of to inſpire us with magnificent ideas of the perſons that ſpeak. The ordinary method of making an hero, is to clap a huge plume of feathers upon his head, which riſes ſo very high, that there is often a greater length from his chin to the top of his head, than to the ſole of his foot. One would believe, that we thought a great man and a tall man the ſame thing. This very much embarraſſes the actor, who is forced to hold his neck extremely ſtiff and ſteady all the while he ſpeaks; and notwithſtanding any anxieties which he pretends for his miſtreſs, his country, or his friends, one may ſee by his action, that his greateſt care and concern is to keep the plume of feathers from falling off his head. For my own part, when I ſee a man uttering his complaints under ſuch a mountain of feathers, I am apt to look upon him rather as an unfortunate lunatic, than a diſtreſſed hero. As theſe ſuperfluous ornaments upon the head make a great man, a princeſs generally receives her grandeur from thoſe additional incumbrances that fall into her tail; I mean the broad ſweeping train that follows her in all her motions, and finds conſtant employment for a boy who ſtands behind her to open and ſpread it to advantage. I do not know how others are affected at this ſight, but I muſt confeſs, my eyes are wholly taken up with the page's part; and as for the queen, I am not ſo attentive to any thing ſhe ſpeaks, as to the right adjuſting of her train, leſt it ſhould chance to trip up her heels, or incommode her, as ſhe walks to and fro upon the ſtage. It is, in my opinion, a very odd ſpectacle, to ſee a queen venting her paſſion in a diſordered motion, and a little boy taking care all the while that they do not ruffle the tail of her gown. The parts that the two perſons act on the ſtage at the ſame time, are very different; the princeſs is afraid leſt ſhe ſhould incur the diſpleaſure of the king her father, or loſe the hero her lover; whilſt her attendant is only concerned leſt ſhe ſhould entangle her feet in her petticoat.

We are told, that an ancient tragic poet, to move the pity of his audience for his exiled kings and diſtreſſed heroes, uſed to make the actors repreſent them in dreſſes and cloaths that were thread-bare and decayed. This artifice for moving pity, ſeems as ill-contrived

trived as that we have been ſpeaking of to inſpire us with a great idea of the perſons introduced upon the ſtage. In ſhort, I would have our conceptions raiſed by the dignity of thought and ſublimity of expreſſion, rather than by a train of robes or a plume of feathers.

Another mechanical method of making great men, and adding dignity to kings and queens, is to accompany them with halberts and battle-axes. Two or three ſhifters of ſcenes, with the two candle-ſnuffers, make up a compleat body of guards upon the Engliſh-ſtage; and by the addition of a few porters dreſſed in red coats, can repreſent above a dozen legions. I have ſometimes ſeen a couple of armies drawn up together upon the ſtage, when the poet has been diſpoſed to do honour to his generals. It is impoſſible for the reader's imagination to multiply twenty men into ſuch prodigious multitudes, or to fancy that two or three hundred thouſand ſoldiers are fighting in a room of forty or fifty yards in compaſs. Incidents of ſuch a nature ſhould be told, not repreſented.

——— *Non tamen intùs*
Digna geri promes in ſcenam: multaque tolles
Ex oculis, quæ mox narret facundia præſens.
HOR. ARS POET. VER. 182.

Yet there are things improper for a ſcene,
Which men of judgment only will relate.
ROSCOMMON.

I ſhould therefore, in this particular, recommend to my countrymen the example of the French ſtage, where the kings and queens always appear unattended, and leave their guards behind the ſcenes. I ſhould likewiſe be glad if we imitated the French in baniſhing from our ſtage the noiſe of drums, trumpets, and huzzas; which is ſometimes ſo very great, that when there is a battle in the Haymarket theatre, one may hear it as far as Charing Croſs.

I have here only touched upon thoſe particulars which are made uſe of to raiſe and aggrandize the perſons of a tragedy; and ſhall ſhew in another paper the ſeveral expedients which are practiſed by authors of a vulgar genius to move terror, pity, or admiration, in their hearers.

The taylor and the painter often contribute to the ſucceſs of a tragedy more than the poet. Scenes affect ordinary minds as much as ſpeeches; and our actors are very ſenſible, that a well-dreſſed play has ſometimes brought them as full audiences, as a well-written one. The Italians have a very good phraſe to expreſs this art of impoſing upon the ſpectators by appearances: they call it the 'Fourberia della ſcena—the knavery 'or trickiſh part of the drama.' But however the ſhow and outſide of the tragedy may work upon the vulgar, the more underſtanding part of the audience immediately ſee through it and deſpiſe it.

A good poet will give the reader a more lively idea of an army or a battle in a deſcription, than if he actually ſaw them drawn up in ſquadrons and battalions, or engaged in the confuſion of a fight. Our minds ſhould be opened to great conceptions, and inflamed with glorious ſentiments, by what the actor ſpeaks, more than by what he appears. Can all the trappings or equipage of a king or hero give Brutus half that pomp and majeſty which he receives from a few lines in Shakeſpeare? C

N° XLIII. THURSDAY, APRIL 19.

HÆ TIBI ERUNT ARTES; PACISQUE IMPONERE MOREM,
PARCERE SUBJECTIS ET DEBELLARE SUPERBOS.
VIRG. ÆN. VI. 853.

BE THESE THY ARTS; TO BID CONTENTION CEASE,
CHAIN UP STERN WAR, AND GIVE THE NATIONS PEACE;
O'ER SUBJECT LANDS EXTEND THY GENTLE SWAY,
AND TEACH WITH IRON ROD THE HAUGHTY TO OBEY.

THERE are crowds of men, whoſe great misfortune it is that they were not bound to mechanic arts or trades; it being abſolutely neceſſary for them to be led by ſome continual taſk or employment. Theſe are ſuch as we commonly call dull fellows; perſons, who for want of ſomething to do, out of a certain

a certain vacancy of thought, rather than curiosity, are ever meddling with things for which they are unfit. I cannot give you a notion of them better than by presenting you with a letter from a gentleman, who belongs to a society of this order of men, residing a Oxford.

OXFORD, APRIL 13, 1711.
FOUR O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING.

SIR,

IN some of your late speculations, I find some sketches towards an history of clubs: but you seem to me to shew them in somewhat too ludicrous a light. I have well weighed that matter, and think that the most important negotiations may best be carried on in such assemblies. I shall, therefore, for the good of mankind (which, I trust, you and I are equally concerned for) propose an institution of that nature for example sake.

I must confess the design and transactions of too many clubs are trifling, and manifestly of no consequence to the nation or public weal: those I will give you up. But you must do me then the justice to own, that nothing can be more useful or laudable, than the scheme we go upon. To avoid nicknames and witticisms, we call ourselves The Hebdomadal Meeting: our president continues for a year at least, and sometimes four or five: we are all grave, serious, designing men, in our way; we think it our duty, as far as in us lies, to take care the constitution receives no harm—*Ne quid detrimenti Res capiat publica*—To censure doctrines or facts, persons or things, which we do not like; to settle the nation at home, and to carry on the war abroad, where and in what manner we see fit. If other people are not of our opinion, we cannot help that. It were better they were. Moreover, we now and then condescend to direct, in some measure, the little affairs of our own university.

Verily, Mr. Spectator, we are much offended at the act for importing French wines: a bottle or two of good solid edifying port at honest George's made a night chearful, and threw off reserve. But this plaguy French claret will not only cost us more money, but do us less good: had we been aware of it, before it had gone too far, I must tell you, we would have petitioned to be heard upon that subject. But let that pass.

I must let you know likewise, good Sir, that we look upon a certain northern prince's march, in conjunction with infidels, to be palpably against our good-will and liking, and, for all Monsieur Palmquist, a most dangerous innovation; and we are by no means yet sure, that some people are not at the bottom on't. At least, my own private letters leave room for a politician, well versed in matters of this nature, to suspect as much, as a penetrating friend of mine tells me.

We think we have at last done the business with the malecontents in Hungary, and shall clap up a peace there.

What the neutrality army is to do, or what the army in Flanders, and what two or three other princes, is not yet fully determined among us: and we wait impatiently for the coming-in of the next Dyer, who, you must know, is our authentic intelligence, our Aristotle in politics. And it is indeed but fit there should be some dernier resort, the absolute decider of all controversies.

We were lately informed, that the gallant trained-bands had patrolled all night long about the streets of London: we indeed could not imagine any occasion for it, we guessed not a tittle on't aforehand, we were in nothing of the secret; and that city-tradesmen, or their apprentices, should do duty, or work, during the holidays, we thought absolutely impossible. But Dyer being positive in it, and some letters from other people, who had talked with some who had it from those who should know, giving some countenance to it, the chairman reported from the committee, appointed to examine into that affair, that it was possible there might be something in it. I have much more to say to you, but my two good friends and neighbours, Dominick and Slyboots, are just come in, and the coffee's ready. I am, in the mean time, Mr. Spectator, your admirer and humble servant,

ABRAHAM FROTH.

You may observe the turn of their minds tends only to novelty, and not satisfaction in any thing. It would be disappointment to them, to come to certainty in any thing, for that would gravel them, and put an end to their inquiries, which dull fellows do not make an information, but for exercise. I do not know but this may be a very good

good way of accounting for what we frequently ſee, to wit, that dull fellows prove very good men of buſineſs. Buſineſs relieves them from their own natural heavineſs, by furniſhing them with what to do; whereas buſineſs to mercurial men, is an interruption from their real exiſtence and happineſs. Though the dull part of mankind are harmleſs in their amuſements, it were to be wiſhed they had no vacant time, becauſe they uſually undertake ſomething that makes their wants conſpicuous, by their manner of ſupplying them. You will ſeldom find a dull fellow of good education, but (if he happens to have any leiſure upon his hands) will turn his head to one of thoſe two amuſements, for all fools of eminence, politics, or poetry. The former of theſe arts is the ſtudy of all dull people in general; but when dulneſs is lodged in a perſon of a quick animal life, it generally exerts itſelf in poetry. One might here mention a few military writers, who give great entertainment to the age, by reaſon that the ſtupidity of their heads is quickened by the alacrity of their hearts. This conſtitution in a dull fellow, gives vigour to nonſenſe, and makes the puddle boil, which would otherwiſe ſtagnate. The Britiſh Prince, that celebrated poem, which was written in the reign of King Charles the Second, and deſervedly called by the wits of that age incomparable, was the effect of ſuch an unhappy genius as we are ſpeaking of. From among many other diſtichs, no leſs to be quoted on this account, I cannot but recite the two following lines:

A painted veſt Prince Voltager had on,
Which from a naked Pict his grandſire won.

Here if the poet had not been vivacious, as well as ſtupid, he could not, in the warmth and hurry of nonſenſe, have been capable of forgetting that neither Prince Voltager, nor his grandfather, could ſtrip a naked man of his doublet; but a fool of a colder conſtitution would have ſtaid to have flea'd the Pict, and made buff of his ſkin, for the wearing of the conqueror.

To bring theſe obſervations to ſome uſeful purpoſe of life, what I would propoſe ſhould be, that we imitated thoſe wiſe nations, wherein every man learns ſome handicraft work. Would it not employ a beau prettily enough, if, inſtead of eternally playing with a ſnuff-box, he ſpent ſome part of his time in making one? Such a method as this would very much conduce to the public emolument, by making every man living good for ſomething; for there would then be no member of human ſociety, but would have ſome little pretenſions for ſome degree in it; like him who came to Will's Coffee-houſe upon the merit of having writ a poſy of a ring.

R

N° XLIV. FRIDAY, APRIL 20.

TU, QUID EGO ET POPULUS MECUM DESIDERET, AUDI.
HOR. ARS POET. VER. 153.

NOW HEAR WHAT EV'RY AUDITOR EXPECTS. ROSCOMMON.

AMONG the ſeveral artifices which are put in practice by the poets to fill the minds of an audience with terror, the firſt place is due to thunder and lightning, which are often made uſe of at the deſcending of a god, or the riſing of a ghoſt; at the vaniſhing of a devil, or the death of a tyrant. I have known a bell introduced into ſeveral tragedies with good effect; and have ſeen the whole aſſembly in a very great alarm all the while it has been ringing. But there is nothing which delights and terrifies our Engliſh theatre ſo much as a ghoſt, eſpecially when he appears in a bloody ſhirt. A ſpectre has very often ſaved a play, though he has done nothing but ſtalked acroſs the ſtage, or roſe through a cleft of it, and ſunk again without ſpeaking one word. There may be a proper ſeaſon for theſe proper terrors; and when they only come in as aids and aſſiſtances to the poet, they are not only to be excuſed, but to be applauded. Thus the ſounding of the clock in Venice Preſerved, makes the hearts of the whole audience quake; and conveys a ſtronger terror to the mind than it is poſſible for words to do. The appearance of the ghoſt in Hamlet is a maſter-piece

master-piece in it's kind, and wrought up with all the circumstances that can create either attention or horror. The mind of the reader is wonderfully prepared for his reception by the discourses that precede it: his dumb behaviour at his first entrance strikes the imagination very strongly; but every time he enters, he is still more terrifying. Who can read the speech with which young Hamlet accosts him, without trembling.

HOR. Look, my Lord, it comes!
HAM. Angels and ministers of grace defend us!
Be thou a spirit of health, or goblin damn'd,
Bring with thee airs from heav'n, or blasts from hell;
Be thy events wicked or charitable;
Thou com'st in such a questionable shape,
That I will speak to thee. I'll call thee Hamlet,
King, Father, Royal Dane. Oh! answer me,
Let me not burst in ignorance; but tell
Why thy canonized bones, hearsed in death,
Have burst their cearments? Why the sepulchre,
Wherein we saw thee quietly inurn'd,
Hath op'd his ponderous and marble jaws
To cast thee up again? What may this mean?
That thou dead coarse again in complete steel
Revisit'st thus the glimpses of the moon,
Making night hideous?

I do not therefore find fault with the artifices above-mentioned when they are introduced with skill, and accompanied by proportionable sentiments and expressions in writing.

For the moving of pity, our principal machine is the handkerchief; and indeed, in our common tragedies, we should not know very often that the persons are in distress by any thing they say, if they did not from time to time apply their handkerchiefs to their eyes. Far be it from me to think of banishing this instrument of sorrow from the stage; I know a tragedy could not subsist without it: all that I would contend for, is to keep it from being misapplied. In a word, I would have the actor's tongue sympathize with his eyes.

A disconsolate mother, with a child in her hand, has frequently drawn compassion from the audience, and has therefore gained a place in several tragedies. A modern writer, that observed how this had took in other plays, being resolved to double the distress, and melt his audience twice as much as those before him had done, brought a princess upon the stage with a little boy in one hand and a girl in the other. This too had a very good effect. A third poet, being resolved to out-write all his predecessors, a few years ago introduced three children with great success: and as I am informed, a young gentleman, who is fully determined to break the most obdurate hearts, has a tragedy by him, where the first person that appears upon the stage is an afflicted widow in her mourning-weeds, with half a dozen fatherless children attending her, like those that usually hang about the figure of Charity. Thus several incidents, that are beautiful in a good writer, become ridiculous by falling into the hands of a bad one.

But among all our methods of moving pity or terror, there is none so absurd and barbarous, and what more exposes us to the contempt and ridicule of our neighbours, than that dreadful butchering of one another, which is so very frequent upon the English stage. To delight in seeing men stabbed, poisoned, racked, or impaled, is certainly the sign of a cruel temper: and as this is often practised before the British audience, several French critics, who think these are grateful spectacles to us, take occasion from them to represent us as a people that delight in blood. It is indeed very odd, to see our stage strowed with carcases in the last scene of a tragedy; and to observe in the wardrobe of the playhouse several daggers, poniards, wheels, bowls for poison, and many other instruments of death. Murders and executions are always transacted behind the scenes in the French theatre; which in general is very agreeable to the manners of a polite and civilized people: but as there are no exceptions to this rule on the French stage, it leads them into absurdities almost as ridiculous as that which falls under our present censure. I remember in the famous play of Corneille, written upon the subject of the Horatii and Curiatii; the fierce young hero who had overcome the Curiatii one after another, instead of being congratulated by his sister for his victory, being upbraided by her for having slain her lover, in the height of his passion and resentment kills her. If any thing could extenuate so brutal an action, it would be the doing of it on a sudden, before the sentiments of nature, reason, or manhood, could take place in him. However, to avoid public bloodshed, as soon as his passion

is wrought to it's height, he follows his ſiſter the whole length of the ſtage, and forbears killing her till they are both withdrawn behind the ſcenes. I muſt confeſs, had he murdered her before the audience, the indecency might have been greater; but as it is, it appears very unnatural, and looks like killing in cold blood. To give my opinion upon this caſe, the fact ought not to have been repreſented, but to have been told, if there was any occaſion for it.

It may not be unacceptable to the reader to ſee how Sophocles has conducted tragedy under the like delicate circumſtances. Oreſtes was in the ſame condition with Hamlet in Shakeſpeare, his mother having murdered his father, and taken poſſeſſion of his kingdom in conſpiracy with the adulterer. The young prince therefore, being determined to revenge his father's death upon thoſe who filled his throne, conveys himſelf by a beautiful ſtratagem into his mother's apartment, with a reſolution to kill her. But becauſe ſuch a ſpectacle would have been too ſhocking for the audience, this dreadful reſolution is executed behind the ſcenes: the mother is heard calling out to her ſon for mercy; and the ſon anſwering her, that ſhe ſhewed no mercy to his father; after which ſhe ſhrieks out that ſhe is wounded, and by what follows we find that ſhe is ſlain. I do not remember that in any of our plays there are ſpeeches made behind the ſcenes, though there are other inſtances of this nature to be met with in thoſe of the ancients: and I believe my reader will agree with me, that there is ſomething infinitely more affecting in this dreadful dialogue between the mother and her ſon behind the ſcenes, than could have been in any thing tranſacted before the audience. Oreſtes immediately after meets the uſurper at the entrance of his palace; and by a very happy thought of the poet avoids killing him before the audience, by telling him that he ſhould live ſome time in his preſent bitterneſs of ſoul before he would diſpatch him, and by ordering him to retire into that part of the palace where he had ſlain his father, whoſe murder he would revenge in the very ſame place where it was committed. By this means the poet obſerves that decency which Horace afterwards eſtabliſhed by a rule, of forbearing to commit parricides or unnatural murders before the audience.

Nec coram populo natos Medea trucidet.
ARS POET. VER. 185.

Let not Medea draw her murd'ring knife,
And ſpill her childrens blood upon the ſtage.
ROSCOMMON.

The French have therefore refined too much upon Horace's rule, who never deſigned to baniſh all kinds of death from the ſtage; but only ſuch as had too much horror in them, and which would have a better effect upon the audience when tranſacted behind the ſcenes. I would therefore recommend to my countrymen the practice of the antient poets, who were very ſparing of their public executions, and rather choſe to perform them behind the ſcenes, if it could be done with as great an effect upon the audience. At the ſame time I muſt obſerve, that though the devoted perſons of the tragedy were ſeldom ſlain before the audience, which has generally ſomething ridiculous in it, their bodies were often produced after their death, which has always in it ſomething melancholy or terrifying; ſo that the killing on the ſtage does not ſeem to have been avoided only as an indecency, but alſo as an improbability.

Nec pueros coram populo Medea trucidet;
Aut humana palàm coquat exta nefarius Atreus;
Aut in avem Progne vertatur, Cadmus in anguem:
Quodcunque oſtendis mihi ſic, incredulus odi.
HOR. ARS POET. VER. 185.

Medea muſt not draw her murd'ring knife,
Nor Atreus there his horrid feaſt prepare:
Cadmus and Progne's metamorphoſis,
(She to a ſwallow turn'd, he to a ſnake)
And whatſoever contradicts my ſenſe,
I hate to ſee, and never can believe.
ROSCOMMON.

I have now gone through the ſeveral dramatic inventions which are made uſe of by the ignorant poets to ſupply the place of tragedy, and by the ſkilful to improve it; ſome of which I could wiſh intirely rejected, and the reſt to be uſed with caution. It would be an endleſs taſk to conſider comedy in the ſame light, and to mention the innumerable ſhifts that ſmall wits put in practice to raiſe a laugh. Bullock in a ſhort coat, and Norris in a long one, ſeldom fail of this effect. In ordinary comedies, a broad and a narrow-brimmed hat are different characters. Sometimes the wit of the ſcene lies in a ſhoulder-belt, and ſometimes

times in a pair of whiskers. A lover running about the stage, with his head peeping out of a barrel, was thought a very good jest in King Charles the Second's time; and invented by one of the first wits of that age. But because ridicule is not so delicate as compassion, and because the objects that make us laugh are infinitely more numerous than those that make us weep, there is a much greater latitude for comic than tragic artifices, and by consequence a much greater indulgence to be allowed them.

C

N° XLV. SATURDAY, APRIL 21.

NATIO COMÆDA EST———

JUV. SAT. III. 100.

THE NATION IS A COMPANY OF PLAYERS.

THERE is nothing which I more desire than a safe and honourable peace, though at the same time I am very apprehensive of many ill consequences that may attend it. I do not mean in regard to our politics, but our manners. What an inundation of ribbons and brocades will break in upon us! What peals of laughter and impertinence shall we be exposed to! For the prevention of these great evils, I could heartily wish that there was an act of parliament for prohibiting the importation of French fopperies.

The female inhabitants of our island have already received very strong impressions from this ludicrous nation, though by the length of the war, as there is no evil which has not some good attending it, they are pretty well worn out and forgotten. I remember the time when some of our well-bred country-women kept their valet-de-chambre, because forsooth, a man was much more handy about them than one of their own sex. I myself have seen one of these male Abigails tripping about the room with a looking-glass in his hand, and combing his lady's hair a whole morning together. Whether or no there was any truth in the story of a lady's being got with child by one of these her handmaids I cannot tell, but I think at present the whole race of them is extinct in our own country.

About the time that several of our sex were taken into this kind of service, the ladies likewise brought up the fashion of receiving visits in their beds. It was then looked upon as a piece of ill-breeding for a woman to refuse to see a man, because she was not stirring; and a porter would have been thought unfit for his place, that could have made so awkward an excuse. As I love to see every thing that is new, I once prevailed upon my friend Will Honeycomb to carry me along with him to one of these travelled ladies, desiring him, at the same time, to present me as a foreigner who could not speak English, that so I might not be obliged to bear a part in the discourse. The lady, though willing to appear undrest, had put on her best looks, and painted herself for our reception. Her hair appeared in a very nice disorder, as the night-gown which was thrown upon her shoulders was ruffled with great care. For my part, I am so shocked with every thing that looks immodest in the fair-sex, that I could not forbear taking off my eye from her when she moved in her bed, and was in the greatest confusion imaginable every time she stirred a leg or an arm. As the coquettes, who introduced this custom, grew old, they left it off by degrees; well knowing that a woman of threescore may kick and tumble her heart out without making any impressions.

Sempronia is at present the most professed admirer of the French nation, but is so modest as to admit her visitants no farther than her toilet. It is a very odd sight that beautiful creature makes, when she is talking politics with her tresses flowing about her shoulders, and examining that face in the glass which does such execution upon all the male standers-by. How prettily does she divide her discourse between her woman and her visitants! What sprightly transitions does she make from an opera or a sermon, to an ivory comb or a pin-cushion? How have I been pleased to see her interrupted in an account of her travels, by a message to her footman; and holding her tongue in the midst of a mo-

ral reflection, by applying the tip of it to a patch?

There is nothing which expoſes a woman to greater dangers; than that gaiety and airineſs of temper, which are natural to moſt of the ſex. It ſhould be therefore the concern of every wiſe and virtuous woman, to keep this ſprightlineſs from degenerating into levity. On the contrary, the whole diſcourſe and behaviour of the French is to make the ſex more fantaſtical, or, as they are pleaſed to term it, 'more awak-'ened,' than is conſiſtent either with virtue or diſcretion. To ſpeak loud in public aſſemblies, to let every one hear you talk of things that ſhould only be mentioned in private, or in whiſper, are looked upon as parts of a refined education. At the ſame time a bluſh is unfaſhionable, and ſilence more ill-bred than any thing that can be ſpoken. In ſhort, diſcretion and modeſty, which in all other ages and countries have been regarded as the greateſt ornaments of the fair-ſex, are conſidered as the ingredients of narrow converſation and family behaviour.

Some years ago I was at the tragedy of Macbeth, and unfortunately placed myſelf under a woman of quality that is ſince dead; who, as I found by the noiſe ſhe made was newly returned from France. A little before the riſing of the curtain, ſhe broke out into a loud ſoliloquy—'When will the dear 'witches enter?' and immediately upon their firſt appearance, aſked a lady that ſat three boxes from her, on her right-hand, if thoſe witches were not charming creatures. A little after, as Betterton was in one of the fineſt ſpeeches of the play, ſhe ſhook her fan at another lady, who ſat as far on her left-hand, and told her with a whiſper that might be heard all over the pit, we muſt not expect to ſee Balloon to-night. Not long after, calling out to a young baronet by his name, who ſat three ſeats before me, ſhe aſked him whether Macbeth's wife was ſtill alive; and before he could give an anſwer, fell a talking of the ghoſt of Banquo. She had by this time formed a little audience to herſelf, and fixed the attention of all about her. But as I had a mind to hear the play, I got out of the ſphere of her impertinence, and planted myſelf in one of the remoteſt corners of the pit.

This pretty childiſhneſs of behaviour is one of the moſt refined parts of coquetry, and is not to be attained in perfection by ladies that do not travel for their improvement. A natural and unconſtrained behaviour has ſomething in it ſo agreeable, that it is no wonder to ſee people endeavouring after it. But at the ſame time, it is ſo very hard to hit, when it is not born with us, that people often make themſelves ridiculous in attempting it.

A very ingenious French author tells us, that the ladies of the court of France, in his time, thought it ill-breeding, and a kind of female pedantry, to pronounce an hard word right; for which reaſon they took frequent occaſion to uſe hard words, that they might ſhew a politeneſs in murdering them. He further adds, that a lady of ſome quality at court, having accidentally made uſe of an hard word in a proper place, and pronounced it right, the whole aſſembly was out of countenance for her.

I muſt however be ſo juſt as to own, that there are many ladies who have travelled ſeveral thouſands of miles without being the worſe for it, and have brought home with them all the modeſty, diſcretion, and good ſenſe, that they went abroad with. As on the contrary, there are great numbers of travelled ladies, who have lived all their days within the ſmoke of London. I have known a woman that never was out of the pariſh of St. James's betray as many foreign fopperies in her carriage, as ſhe could have gleaned up in half the countries of Europe.

C

N° XLVI. MONDAY, APRIL 23.

NON BENE JUNCTARUM DISCORDIA SEMINA RERUM.
OVID. MET. 1. 9.

THE JARRING SEEDS OF ILL CONSORTED THINGS.

WHEN I want materials for this paper, it is my cuſtom to go abroad in queſt of game; and when I meet any proper ſubject, I take the firſt opportunity of ſetting down an hint of it upon paper. At the ſame time I look into the letters of my correſpondents, and if I find any thing ſuggeſted in them that may afford matter of ſpeculation, I likewiſe enter a minute of it in my collection of materials. By this means I frequently carry about me a whole ſheet-full of hints, that would look like a rhapſody of nonſenſe to any body but myſelf; there is nothing in them but obſcurity and confuſion, raving and inconſiſtency. In ſhort, they are my ſpeculations in the firſt principles, that, like the world in it's chaos, are void of all light, diſtinction, and order.

About a week ſince there happened to me a very odd accident, by reaſon of one of theſe my papers of minutes which I had accidentally dropped at Lloyd's Coffee-houſe, where the auctions are uſually kept. Before I miſſed it, there was a cluſter of people who had found it, and were diverting themſelves with it at one end of the coffee-houſe: it had raiſed ſo much laughter among them before I had obſerved what they were about, that I had not the courage to own it. The boy of the coffee-houſe, when they had done with it, carried it about in his hand, aſking every body if they had dropped a written paper; but nobody challenging it, he was ordered by thoſe merry gentleman who had before peruſed it, to get up into the auction-pulpit, and read it to the whole room, that if any one would own it, they might. The boy accordingly mounted the pulpit, and with a very audible voice read as follows:

MINUTES.

Sir Roger de Coverley's country ſeat—Yes, for I hate long ſpeeches—Query, if a good Chriſtian may be a Conjurer—Childermas-day, Saltſeller, Houſe-dog, Screech-owl, Cricket—Mr. Thomas Inkle of London, in the good ſhip called the Achilles. Yarico—*Ægreſcitque medendo*—Ghoſts—The Lady's Library—Lion by trade a Tailor—Dromedary called Bucephalus—Equipage the lady's *ſummum bonum*—Charles Lillie to be taken notice of—Short face a relief to envy—Redundancies in the three profeſſions—King Latinus a recruit—Jew devouring an ham of bacon—Weſtminſter Abbey—Grand Cairo—Procraſtination—April Fools—Blue Boars, Red Lions, Hogs in Armour—Enter a King and two Fidlers *ſolus*—Admiſſion into the Ugly Club—Beauty, how improveable—Families of true and falſe Humour—The Parrot's School-Miſtreſs—Face half Pict half Britiſh—No Man to be an hero of a Tragedy under ſix feet—Club of Sighers—Letters from Flower-pots, Elbow-chairs, Tapeſtry-figures, Lion, Thunder—The Bell-rings to the Puppet-ſhow—Old Woman with a beard married to a ſmock-faced boy—My next coat to be turned up with blue—Fable of Tongs and Gridiron—Flower Dyers—The Soldier's Prayer—'Thank ye for nothing,' ſays the Gallypot—Factolus in Stockings, with golden clocks to them—Bamboos, Cudgels, Drum-ſticks—Slip of my Landlady's eldeſt daughter—The Black mare with a ſtar in her forehead—The Barber's Pole—Will Honeycomb's coat-pocket—Cæſar's behaviour and my own in parallel circumſtances—Poem in Patch-work—*Nulli gravis eſt percuſſus Achilles*—The Female Conventicler—The Ogle-maſter.

The reading of this paper made the whole coffee-houſe very merry; ſome of them concluded it was written by a madman, and others by ſomebody that had been taking notes out of the Spectator. One who had the appearance of a very ſubſtantial citizen, told us, with ſeveral politic winks and nods, that he wiſhed there was no more in the paper than what was expreſſed in it: that for his part, he looked upon the Dromedary, the Gridiron, and the Barber's Pole, to ſignify ſomething more than what was uſually

uſually meant by thoſe words; and that he thought the coffee-man could not do better than to carry the paper to one of the ſecretaries of ſtate. He further added, that he did not like the name of the outlandiſh man with the golden clock in his ſtockings. A young Oxford ſcholar, who chanced to he with his uncle at the coffee-houſe, diſcovered to us who this Pactolus was; and by that means turned the whole ſcheme of this worthy citizen into ridicule. While they were making their ſeveral conjectures upon this innocent paper, I reached out my arm to the boy, as he was coming out of the pulpit, to give it me; which he did accordingly. This drew the eyes of the whole company upon me; but after having caſt a curſory glance over it, and ſhook my head twice or thrice at the reading of it, I twiſted it into a kind of match, and lit my pipe with it. My profound ſilence, together with the ſteadineſs of my countenance, and the gravity of my behaviour during this whole tranſaction, raiſed a very loud laugh on all ſides of me; but as I had eſcaped all ſuſpicion of being the author, I was very well ſatisfied; and applying myſelf to my pipe and the Poſtman, took no farther notice of any thing that paſſed about me.

My reader will find, that I have already made uſe of above half the contents of the foregoing paper; and will eaſily ſuppoſe, that thoſe ſubjects which are yet untouched, were ſuch proviſions as I had made for his future entertainment. But as I have been unluckily prevented by this accident, I ſhall only give him the letters which relate to the two laſt hints. The firſt of them I ſhould not have publiſhed, were I not informed that there is many an huſband who ſuffers very much in his private affairs by the indiſcreet zeal of ſuch a partner as is hereafter mentiond; to whom I may apply the barbarous inſcription quoted by the Biſhop of Saliſbury in his travels; '*Dum nimis pia* '*eſt, facta eſt impia*—Through too 'much piety ſhe became impious.'

SIR,

I Am one of thoſe unhappy men that are plagued with a Goſpel-goſſip, ſo common among Diſſenters, eſpecially friends. Lectures in the morning, church-meetings at noon, and preparation-ſermons at night, take up ſo much of her time, it is very rare ſhe knows what we have for dinner, unleſs when the preacher is to be at it. With him come a tribe, all brothers and ſiſters, it ſeems; while others, really ſuch, are deemed no relations. If at any time I have her company alone, ſhe is a mere ſermon popgun, repeating and diſcharging texts, proofs, and applications, ſo perpetually, that however weary I may go to-bed, the noiſe in my head will not let me ſleep till towards morning. The miſery of my caſe, and great numbers of ſuch ſufferers, plead your pity and ſpeedy relief, otherwiſe muſt expect, in a little time, to be lectured, preached, and prayed into want, unleſs the happineſs of being ſooner talked to death prevent it. I am, &c. R. G.

The ſecond letter relating to the Ogling-Maſter, runs thus:

MR. SPECTATOR,

I Am an Iriſh gentleman, that have travelled many years for my improvement; during which time I have accompliſhed myſelf in the whole art of ogling, as it is at preſent practiſed in all the polite nations of Europe. Being thus qualified, I intend, by the advice of my friends, to ſet up for an ogling-maſter. I teach the church-ogle in the morning, and the play-houſe-ogle by candle-light. I have alſo brought over with me a new flying ogle fit for the Ring; which I teach in the duſk of the evening, or in any hour of the day by darkening one of my windows. I have a manuſcript by me called 'The 'Compleat Ogler,' which I ſhall be ready to ſhew you upon any occaſion. In the mean time, I beg you will publiſh the ſubſtance of this letter in an advertiſement, and you will very much oblige,

C Your, &c.

N° XLVII. TUESDAY, APRIL 24.

RIDE, SI SAPIS.—— MART.

LAUGH, IF YOU'RE WISE.

MR. Hobbes, in his diſcourſe of human nature, which in my humble opinion, is much the beſt of all his works, after ſome very curious obſervations upon laughter, concludes thus: 'The paſſion of laughter is no-'thing elſe but ſudden glory ariſing 'from ſome ſudden conception of ſome 'eminency in ourſelves, by compariſon 'with the infirmity of others, or with 'our own formerly; for men laugh at 'the follies of themſelves paſt, when 'they come ſuddenly to remembrance, 'except they bring with them any pre-'ſent diſhonour.'

According to this author therefore, when we hear a man laugh exceſſively, inſtead of ſaying he is very merry, we ought to tell him he is very proud. And indeed, if we look into the bottom of this matter, we ſhall meet with many obſervations to confirm us in his opinion. Every one laughs at ſomebody that is in an inferior ſtate of folly to himſelf. It was formerly the cuſtom for every great houſe in England to keep a tame fool dreſſed in petticoats, that the heir of the family might have an opportunity of joking upon him and diverting himſelf with his abſurdities. For the ſame reaſon idiots are ſtill in requeſt in moſt of the courts of Germany, where there is not a prince of any great magnificence, who has not two or three dreſſed, diſtinguiſhed, undiſputed fools in his retinue, whom the reſt of the courtiers are always breaking their jeſts upon.

The Dutch, who are more famous for their induſtry and application, than for wit and humour, hang up in ſeveral of their ſtreets what they call the ſign of the Gaper, that is, the head of an idiot dreſſed in a cap and bells, and gaping in a moſt immoderate manner: this is a ſtanding jeſt at Amſterdam.

Thus every one diverts himſelf with ſome perſon or other that is below him in point of underſtanding, and triumphs in the ſuperiority of his genius, whilſt he has ſuch objects of deriſion before his eyes. Mr. Dennis has very well expreſſed this in a couple of humorous lines, which are part of a tranſlation of a ſatire in Monſieur Boileau.

Thus one fool lolls his tongue out at another,
And ſhakes his empty noddle at his brother.

Mr. Hobbes's reflection gives us the reaſonwhythe inſignificant people abovementioned are ſtirrers-up of laughter among men of a groſs taſte; but as the more underſtanding part of mankind do not find their riſibility affected by ſuch ordinary objects, it may be worth the while to examine into the ſeveral provocatives of laughter in men of ſuperior ſenſe and knowledge.

In the firſt place I muſt obſerve, that there is a ſet of merry drolls, whom the common people of all countries admire, and ſeem to love ſo well, 'that they 'could eat them,' according to the old proverb; I mean thoſe circumforaneous wits whom every nation calls by the name of that diſh of meat which it loves beſt. In Holland they are termed Pickled Herrings; in France, Jean Pottages; in Italy, Maccaronies; and in Great Britain, Jack-Pudding. Theſe merry wags, from whatſoever food they receive their titles, that they may make their audiences laugh, always appear in a fool's coat, and commit ſuch blunders and miſtakes in every ſtep they take, and every word they utter, as thoſe who liſten to them would be aſhamed of.

But this little triumph of the underſtanding, under the diſguiſe of laughter, is no where more viſible than in that cuſtom which prevails every where among us on the firſt day of the preſent month, when every body takes it in his head to make as many fools as he can. In proportion as there are more follies diſcovered, ſo there is more laughter raiſed on this day than on any other in the whole year. A neighbour of mine, who is a haberdaſher by trade, and a very ſhallow conceited fellow, makes his boaſts that for theſe ten years ſucceſſively he has not made leſs than a hundred April fools. My landlady had a falling out with him about a fort-

right

night ago, for ſending every one of her children upon ſome ſleeveleſs errand, as ſhe terms it. Her eldeſt ſon went to buy an halfpenny worth of incle at a ſhoemaker's; the eldeſt daughter was diſpatched half a mile to ſee a monſter; and in ſhort, the whole family of innocent children made April fools. Nay, my landlady herſelf did not eſcape him. This empty fellow has laughed upon theſe conceits ever ſince.

This art of wit is well enough, when confined to one day in a twelemonth; but there is an ingenious tribe of men ſprung up of late years, who are for making April fools every day in the year. Theſe gentlemen are commonly diſtinguiſhed by the name of Biters; a race of men that are perpetually employed in laughing at thoſe miſtakes which are of their own production.

Thus we ſee, in proportion as one man is more refined than another, he chuſes his fool out of a lower or higher claſs of mankind; or, to ſpeak in a more philoſophical language, that ſecret elation and pride of heart, which is generally called laughter, ariſes in him, from his comparing himſelf with an object below him, whether it ſo happens that it be a natural or an artificial fool. It is indeed very poſſible, that the perſons we laugh at may in the main of their characters be much wiſer men than ourſelves; but if they would have us laugh at them, they muſt fall ſhort of us in thoſe reſpects which ſtir up this paſſion.

I am afraid I ſhall appear too abſtracted in my ſpeculations, if I ſhew that when a man of wit makes us laugh, it is by betraying ſome oddneſs or infirmity in his own character, or in the repreſentation which he makes of others; and that when we laugh at a brute, or even at an inanimate thing, it is at ſome action or incident that bears a remote analogy to any blunder or abſurdity in reaſonable creatures.

But to come into common life; I ſhall paſs by the conſideration of thoſe ſtage coxcombs that are able to ſhake a whole audience, and take notice of a particular ſort of men who are ſuch provokers of mirth in converſation, that it is impoſſible for a club or merry meeting to ſubſiſt without them; I mean thoſe honeſt gentlemen that are always expoſed to the wit and raillery of their well-wiſhers and companions; that are pelted by men, women, and children, friends and foes, and, in a word, ſtands as Butts in converſation, for every one to ſhoot at that pleaſes. I know ſeveral of theſe Butts who are men of wit and ſenſe, though by ſome odd turn of humour, ſome unlucky caſt in their perſon or behaviour, they have always the misfortune to make the company merry. The truth of it is, a man is not qualified for a Butt, who has not a good deal of wit and vivacity, even on the ridiculous ſide of his character. A ſtupid Butt is only fit for the converſation of ordinary people; men of wit require one that will give them play, and beſtir himſelf in the abſurd part of his behaviour. A Butt with theſe accompliſhments frequently gets the laugh of his ſide, and turns the ridicule upon him that attacks him. Sir John Falſtalff was an hero of this ſpecies, and gives a good deſcription of himſelf in his capacity of a Butt, after the following manner: 'Men of all 'ſorts,' ſays that merry knight, 'take 'a pride to gird at me. The brain of 'man is not able to invent any thing 'that tends to laughter more than I 'invent, or is invented on me. I am 'not only witty in myſelf, but the cauſe 'that wit is in other men. C

N° XLVIII. WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25.

——PER MULTAS ADITUM SIBI SÆPE FIGURAS
REPPERIT —— OVID. MET. XIV. 652.

THRO' VARIOUS SHAPES HE OFTEN FINDS ACCESS.

MY correſpondents take it ill if I do not, from time to time, let them know I have received their letters. The moſt effectual way will be to publiſh ſome of them that are upon important ſubjects; which I ſhall introduce with a letter of my own that I writ a fornight ago to a fraternity who thought fit to make me an honorary member.

TO

TO THE PRESIDENT AND FELLOWS OF THE UGLY CLUB.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR DEFORMITIES,

I Have received the notification of the honour you have done me, in admitting me into your ſociety. I acknowledge my want of merit, and for that reaſon ſhall endeavour at all times to make up my own failures, by introducing and recommending to the club perſons of more undoubted qualifications than I can pretend to. I ſhall next week come down in the ſtage-coach, in order to take my ſeat at the board; and ſhall bring with me a candidate of each ſex. The perſons I ſhall preſent to you, are an old Beau and a modern Pict. If they are not ſo eminently gifted by nature as our aſſembly expects, give me leave to ſay their acquired uglineſs is greater than any that has ever appeared before you. The Beau has varied his dreſs every day of his life for theſe thirty years laſt paſt, and ſtill added to the deformity he was born with. The Pict has ſtill greater merit toward us, and has, ever ſince ſhe came to years of diſcretion, deſerted the handſome party, and taken all poſſible pains to acquire the face in which I ſhall preſent her to your conſideration and favor. I am, gentlemen, your moſt obliged humble ſervant,

THE SPECTATOR.

P. S. I deſire to know whether you admit people of quality.

MR. SPECTATOR,

TO ſhew you there are among us of the vain weak ſex, ſome that have honeſty and fortitude enough to dare to be ugly, and willing to be thought ſo; I apply myſelf to you, to beg your intereſt and recommendation to the Ugly Club. If my own word will not be taken, though in this caſe a woman's may, I can bring credible witneſs of my qualifications for their company, whether they inſiſt upon hair, forehead, eyes, cheeks, or chin; to which I muſt add, that I find it eaſier to lean to my left ſide, than my right. I hope I am in all reſpects agreeable; and for humour and mirth, I'll keep up to the preſident himſelf. All the favour I'll pretend to is, that as I am the firſt woman that has appeared deſirous of good company and agreeable converſation, I may take and keep the upper end of the table. And indeed I think they want a carver, which I can be after as ugly a manner as they can wiſh. I deſire your thoughts of my claim as ſoon as you can. Add to my features the length of my face, which is full half-yard; though I never knew the reaſon of it till you gave one for the ſhortneſs of yours. If I knew a name ugly enough to belong to the above-deſcribed face, I would feign one: but, to my unſpeakable misfortune, my name is the only diſagreeable prettineſs about me; ſo pr'ythee make one for me that ſignifies all the deformity in the world. You underſtand Latin, but be ſure bring it in with my being, in the ſincerity of my heart, your moſt frightful admirer, and ſervant,

HECATISSA.

MR. SPECTATOR,

I Read your diſcourſe upon affectation, and from the remarks made in it examined my own heart ſo ſtrictly, that I thought I had found out it's moſt ſecret avenues, with a reſolution to be aware of you for the future. But alas! to my ſorrow I now underſtand, that I have ſeveral follies which I do not know the root of. I am an old fellow, and extremely troubled with the gout: but having always a ſtrong vanity towards being pleaſing in the eyes of women, I never have a moment's eaſe, but I am mounted in high-heeled ſhoes with a glazed wax-leather inſtep. Two days after a ſevere fit I was invited to a friend's houſe in the city, where I believed I ſhould ſee ladies; and with my uſual complaiſance crippled myſelf to wait upon them. A very ſumptuous table, agreeable company, and kind reception, were but ſo many importunate additions to the torment I was in. A gentleman of the family obſerved my condition; and, ſoon after the Queen's health, he in the preſence of the whole company, with his own hands, degraded me into an old pair of his own ſhoes. The operation, before fine ladies, to me, who am by nature a coxcomb, was ſuffered with the ſame reluctance as they admit the help of men in their greateſt extremity. The return of eaſe made me forgive the rough obligation laid upon me, which at that time relieved my body from a diſtemper, and will my mind for ever from a folly. For the

charity received, I return my thanks this way.

Your moſt humble ſervant.

SIR, EPPING, APRIL 18.

WE have your papers here the morning they come out, and we have been very well entertained with your laſt, upon the falſe ornaments of perſons who repreſent heroes in a tragedy. What made your ſpeculation come very ſeaſonably among us is, that we have now at this place a company of ſtrollers, who are very far from offending in the impertinent ſplendor of the drama. They are ſo far from falling into theſe falſe gallantries, that the ſtage is here in it's original ſituation of a cart. Alexander the Great was acted by a fellow in a paper cravat. The next day, the Earl of Eſſex ſeemed to have no diſtreſs but his poverty: and my Lord Foppington the ſame morning wanted any better means to ſhew himſelf a fop, than by wearing ſtockings of different colours. In a word, though they have had a full barn for many days together, our itinerants are ſtill ſo wretchedly poor, that, without you can prevail to ſend us the furniture you forbid at the play-houſe, the heroes appear only like ſturdy beggars, and the heroines gipſies. We have had but one part which was performed and dreſſed with propriety, and that was Juſtice Clodpate. This was ſo well done, that it offended Mr. Juſtice Overdo, who, in the midſt of our whole audience, was, like Quixote in the puppet-ſhow, ſo highly provoked, that he told them, if they would move compaſſion, it ſhould be in their own perſons, and not in the characters of diſtreſſed princes and potentates: he told them, if they were ſo good at finding the way to people's hearts, they ſhould do it at the end of bridges or church-porches, in their proper vocation of beggars. This, the Juſtice ſays, they muſt expect, ſince they could not be contented to act heathen warriors, and ſuch fellows as Alexander, but muſt preſume to make a mockery of one of the quorum. Your ſervant.

R.

N° XLIX. THURSDAY, APRIL 26.

——HOMINEM PAGINA NOSTRA SAPIT. MART.

MEN AND THEIR MANNERS I DESCRIBE.

IT is very natural for a man, who is not turned for mirthful meetings of men, or aſſemblies of the fair-ſex, to delight in that ſort of converſation which we find in coffee-houſes. Here a man of my temper is in his element; for if he cannot talk, he can ſtill be more agreeable to his company, as well as pleaſed in himſelf, in being only an hearer. It is a ſecret known but to few, yet of no ſmall uſe in the conduct of life, that when you fall into a man's converſation, the firſt thing you ſhould conſider is, whether he has a greater inclination to hear you, or that you ſhould hear him. The latter is the moſt general deſire, and I know very able flatterers that never ſpeak a word in praiſe of the perſons from whom they obtain daily favours, but ſtill practiſe a ſkilful attention to whatever is uttered by thoſe with whom they converſe. We are very curious to obſerve the behaviour of great men and their clients; but the ſame paſſions and intereſts move men in lower ſpheres; and I, that have nothing elſe to do but make obſervations, ſee in every pariſh, ſtreet, lane, and alley, of this populous city, a little potentate that has his court and his flatterers, who lay ſnares for his affection and favour by the ſame arts that are practiſed by men in higher ſtations.

In the place I moſt uſually frequent, men differ rather in the time of day in which they make a figure, than in any real greatneſs above one another. I, who am at the coffee-houſe at ſix in a morning, know that my friend Beaver the haberdaſher has a levee of more undiſſembled friends and admirers, than moſt of the courtiers or generals of Great Britain. Every man about him has, perhaps, a newſpaper in his hand; but none can pretend to gueſs what ſtep will be taken in any one court of Europe, till Mr. Beaver has thrown down his pipe, and declares what meaſures the Allies

Allies muſt enter into upon this new poſture of affairs. Our coffee-houſe is near one of the inns of court, and Beaver has the audience and admiration of his neighbours from ſix till within a quarter of eight, at which time he is interrupted by the ſtudents of the houſe; ſome of whom are ready-dreſſed for Weſtminſter, at eight in a morning, with faces as buſy as if they were retained in every cauſe there; and others come in their night-gowns to ſaunter away their time, as if they never deſigned to go thither. I do not know that I meet, in any of my walks, objects which move both my ſpleen and laughter ſo effectually, as thoſe young fellows at the Grecian, Squire's, Searl's, and all other coffee-houſes adjacent to the law, who riſe early for no other purpoſe but to publiſh their lazineſs. One would think theſe young virtuoſos take a gay cap and ſlippers, with a ſcarf and party-coloured gown, to be enſigns of dignity; for the vain things approach each other with an air, which ſhews they regard one another for their veſtments. I have obſerved that the ſuperiority among theſe proceeds from an opinion of gallantry and faſhion: the gentleman in the ſtrawberry faſh, who preſides ſo much over the reſt, has, it ſeems, ſubſcribed to every opera this laſt winter, and is ſuppoſed to receive favours from one of the actreſſes.

When the day grows too buſy for theſe gentlemen to enjoy any longer the pleaſures of their deſhabillé, with any manner of confidence, they give place to men who have buſineſs or good ſenſe in their faces, and come to the coffee-houſe either to tranſact affairs or enjoy converſation. The perſons to whoſe behaviour and diſcourſe I have moſt regard are ſuch as are between theſe two ſorts of men; ſuch as have not ſpirits too active to be happy and well pleaſed in a private condition, nor complexions too warm to make them neglect the duties and relations of life. Of theſe ſort of men conſiſt the worthier part of mankind; of theſe are all good fathers, generous brothers, ſincere friends, and faithful ſubjects. Their entertainments are derived rather from reaſon than imagination; which is the cauſe that there is no impatience or inſtability in their ſpeech or action. You ſee in their countenances they are at home, and in quiet poſſeſſion of the preſent inſtant, as it paſſes, without deſiring to quicken it by gratifying any paſſion, or proſecuting any new deſign. Theſe are the men formed for ſociety, and thoſe little communities which we expreſs by the word Neighbourhoods.

The coffee-houſe is the place of rendezvous to all that live near it, who are thus turned to reliſh calm and ordinary life. Eubulus preſides over the middle hours of the day, when this aſſembly of men meet together. He enjoys a great fortune handſomely, without launching into expence; and exerts many noble and uſeful qualities, without appearing in any public employment. His wiſdom and knowledge are ſerviceable to all that think fit to make uſe of them; and he does the office of a council, a judge, an executor, and a friend, to all his acquaintance, not only without the profits which attend ſuch offices, but alſo without the deference and homage which are uſually paid to them. The giving of thanks is diſpleaſing to him. The greateſt gratitude you can ſhew him, is to let him ſee you are the better man for his ſervices; and that you are as ready to oblige others, as he is to oblige you.

In the private exigencies of his friends he lends, at legal value, conſiderable ſums, which he might highly increaſe by rolling in the public ſtocks. He does not conſider in whoſe hands his money will improve moſt, but where it will do moſt good.

Eubulus has ſo great an authority in his little diurnal audience, that when he ſhakes his head at any piece of public news, they all of them appear dejected; and, on the contrary, go home to their dinners with a good ſtomach and chearful aſpect, when Eubulus ſeems to intimate that things go well. Nay, their veneration towards him is ſo great, that when they are in other company they ſpeak and act after him; are wiſe in his ſentences; and are no ſooner ſat down at their own tables, but they hope or fear, rejoice or deſpond, as they ſaw him do at the coffee-houſe. In a word, every man is Eubulus as ſoon as his back is turned.

Having here given an account of the ſeveral reigns that ſucceed each other from day-break till dinner-time, I ſhall mention the monarchs of the afternoon on another occaſion, and ſhut up the whole ſeries of them with the hiſtory of

Tom the Tyrant; who, as firſt miniſter of the coffee-houſe, takes the government upon him between the hours of eleven and twelve at night, and gives his orders in the moſt arbitrary manner to the ſervants below him, as to the diſpoſition of liquors, coals, and cinders.

R

N° L. FRIDAY, APRIL 27.

NUNQUAM ALIUD NATURA, ALIUD SAPIENTIA DIXIT.
JUV. SAT. XIV. 321.

GOOD SENSE AND NATURE ALWAYS SPEAK THE SAME.

WHEN the four Indian kings were in this country about a twelvemonth ago, I often mixed with the rabble, and followed them a whole day together, being wonderfully ſtruck with the ſight of every thing that is new or uncommon. I have, ſince their departure, employed a friend to make many inquiries of their landlord the upholſterer, relating to their manners and converſation, as alſo concerning the remarks which they made in this country: for, next to the forming a right notion of ſuch ſtrangers, I ſhould be deſirous of learning what ideas they have conceived of us.

The upholſterer, finding my friend very inquiſitive about theſe his lodgers, brought him ſome time ſince a little bundle of papers, which he aſſured him were written by King Sa Ga Yean Qua Raſh Tow, and, as he ſuppoſes, left behind by ſome miſtake. Theſe papers are now tranſlated, and contain abundance of very odd obſervations, which I find this little fraternity of kings made during their ſtay in the iſle of Great Britain. I ſhall preſent my reader with a ſhort ſpecimen of them in this paper, and may perhaps communicate more to him hereafter. In the article of London are the following words, which without doubt are meant of the church of St. Paul.

'On the moſt riſing part of the town 'there ſtands a huge houſe, big enough 'to contain the whole nation of which 'I am king. Our good brother E Tow O 'Koam, king of the Rivers, is of opi'nion it was made by the hands of that 'great God to whom it is conſecrated. 'The kings of Granajah and of the 'Six Nations believe it was created with 'the earth, and produced on the ſame 'day with the ſun and moon. But for 'my own part, by the beſt information 'I could get of this matter, I am apt 'to think that this prodigious pile was 'faſhioned into the ſhape it now bears 'by ſeveral tools and inſtruments, of 'which they have a wonderful variety 'in this country. It was probably at 'firſt an huge miſ-ſhapen rock that 'grew upon the top of the hill, which 'the natives of the country, after having 'cut it into a kind of regular figure, 'bored and hollowed with incredible 'pains and induſtry, until they had 'wrought in it all thoſe beautiful 'vaults and caverns into which it is di'vided at this day. As ſoon as this 'rock was thus curiouſly ſcooped to 'their liking, a prodigious number of 'hands muſt have been employed in 'chipping the out-ſide of it, which is 'now as ſmooth as the ſurface of a 'pebble; and is in ſeveral places hewn 'out into pillars that ſtand like the 'trunks of ſo many trees bound about 'the top with garlands of leaves. It is 'probable that when this great work 'was begun, which muſt have been 'many hundred years ago, there was 'ſome religion among this people: for 'they give it the name of a temple, 'and have a tradition that it was de'ſigned for men to pay their devotions 'in. And indeed there are ſeveral reaſons which make us think that the na'tives of this country had formerly 'among them ſome ſort of worſhip; for 'they ſet apart every ſeventh day as ſa'cred: but upon my going into one of 'theſe holy houſes on that day, I could 'not obſerve any circumſtance of devo'tion in their behaviour. There was 'indeed a man in black, who was 'mounted above the reſt, and ſeemed 'to utter ſomething with a great deal 'of vehemence; but as for thoſe under'neath him, inſtead of paying their 'worſhip to the Deity of the place, 'they were moſt of them bowing and 'curtſying to one another, and a conſi'derable number of them faſt aſleep.

'The Queen of the country appoint-

'ed

'ed two men to attend us, that had 'enough of our language to make themselves underſtood in ſome few particulars. But we ſoon perceived theſe 'two were great enemies to one another, 'and did not always agree in the ſame 'ſtory. We could make a ſhift to gather out of one of them, that this 'iſland was very much infeſted with a 'monſtrous kind of animals, in the 'ſhape of men, called, Whigs; and he 'often told us, that he hoped we ſhould 'meet with none of them in our way, 'for that, if we did, they would be 'apt to knock us down for being kings.

'Our other interpreter uſed to talk 'very much of a kind of animal called 'a Tory, that was as great a monſter 'as the Whig, and would treat us as 'ill for being foreigners. Theſe two 'creatures, it ſeems, are born with a 'ſecret antipathy to one another, and 'engage when they meet as naturally 'as the elephant and the rhinoceros. 'But as we ſaw none of either of theſe 'ſpecies, we are apt to think that our 'guides deceived us with miſrepreſentations and fictions, and amuſed us 'with an account of ſuch monſters as 'are not really in their country.

'Theſe particulars we made a ſhift 'to pick out from the diſcourſe of our 'interpreters; which we put together 'as well as we could, being able to underſtand but here and there a word of 'what they ſaid, and afterwards making 'up the meaning of it among ourſelves. 'The men of the country are very cunning and ingenious in handicraft 'works, but withal ſo very idle, that 'we often ſaw young luſty raw-boned 'fellows carried up and down the ſtreet 'in little covered rooms by a couple of 'porters who are hired for that ſervice. 'Their dreſs is likewiſe very barbarous, 'for they almoſt ſtrangle themſelves 'about the neck, and bind their bodies 'with many ligatures, that we are apt 'to think are the occaſion of ſeveral 'diſtempers among them, which our 'country is intirely free from. Inſtead 'of thoſe beautiful feathers with which 'we adorn our heads, they often buy 'up a monſtrous buſh of hair, which 'covers their heads, and falls down in 'a large fleece below the middle of their 'back; with which they walk up and 'down the ſtreets, and are as proud of 'it as if it was of their own growth.

'We were invited to one of their 'public diverſions, where we hoped to 'have ſeen the great men of their country running down a ſtag or pitching a 'bar, that we might have diſcovered 'who were the perſons of the greateſt 'abilities among them; but inſtead of 'that, they conveyed us into a huge 'room lighted up with abundance of 'candles, where this lazy people ſat 'ſtill above three hours to ſee ſeveral 'feats of ingenuity performed by others, 'who it ſeems were paid for it.

'As for the women of the country, 'not being able to talk with them, we 'could only make our remarks upon 'them at a diſtance. They let the hair 'of their heads grow to a great length; 'but as the men make a great ſhow 'with heads of hair that are none of 'their own, the women, who they ſay 'have very fine heads of hair, tie it up 'in a knot, and cover it from being 'ſeen. The women look like angels, 'and would be more beautiful than the 'ſun, were it not for little black ſpots 'that are apt to break out in their faces, and ſometimes riſe in very odd 'figures. I have obſerved that thoſe 'little blemiſhes wear off very ſoon; 'but when they diſappear in one part 'of the face, they are very apt to break 'out in another, inſomuch that I have 'ſeen a ſpot on the forehead in the afternoon, which was upon the chin in 'the morning.'

The author then proceeds to ſhew the abſurdity of breeches and petticoats, with many other curious obſervations, which I ſhall reſerve for another occaſion. I cannot however conclude this paper, without taking notice, that amidſt theſe wild remarks there now and then appears ſomething very reaſonable. I cannot likewiſe forbear obſerving, that we are all guilty in ſome meaſure of the ſame narrow way of thinking, which we meet with in this abſtract of the Indian Journal, when we fancy the cuſtoms, dreſſes, and manners, of other coutries, are ridiculous and extravagant, if they do not reſemble thoſe of our own. C

N° LI. SATURDAY, APRIL 28.

TORQUET AB OBSCENIS JAM NUNC SERMONIBUS AUREM.
HOR. EP. II. 1. 127.

HE FROM THE TASTE OBSCENE RECLAIMS OUR YOUTH. POPE.

MR. SPECTATOR,

MY fortune, quality, and perſon, are ſuch as render me as conſpicuous as any young woman in town. It is in my power to enjoy it in all it's vanities, but I have, from a very careful education, contracted a great averſion to the forward air and faſhion which is practiſed in all public places and aſſemblies. I attribute this very much to the ſtile and manners of our plays. I was laſt night at the Funeral, where a confident lover in the play, ſpeaking of his miſtreſs, cries out—'O that Harriot! 'to fold theſe arms about the waiſt of 'that beauteous, ſtruggling, and at laſt 'yielding fair!' Such an image as this ought, by no means, to be preſented to a chaſte and regular audience. I expect your opinion of this ſentence, and recommend to your conſideration, as a Spectator, the conduct of the ſtage at preſent with relation to chaſtity and modeſty. I am, Sir, your conſtant reader and well-wiſher.

The complaint of this young lady is ſo juſt, that the offence is groſs enough to have diſpleaſed perſons who cannot pretend to that delicacy and modeſty, of which ſhe is miſtreſs. But there is a great deal to be ſaid in behalf of an author. If the audience would but conſider the difficulty of keeping up a ſprightly dialogue for five acts together, they would allow a writer, when he wants wit, and cannot pleaſe any otherwiſe, to help it out with a little ſmuttineſs. I will anſwer for the poets, that no one ever writ bawdry for any other reaſon but dearth of invention. When the author cannot ſtrike out of himſelf any more of that which he has ſuperior to thoſe who make up the bulk of his audience, his natural recourſe is to that which he has in common with them; and a deſcription which gratifies a ſenſual appetite will pleaſe, when the author has nothing about him to delight a refined imagination. It is to ſuch a poverty, we muſt impute this and all other ſentences in plays, which are of this kind, and which are commonly termed luſcious expreſſions.

This expedient, to ſupply the deficiences of wit, has been uſed more or leſs, by moſt of the authors who have ſucceeded on the ſtage; though I know but one who has profeſſedly writ a play upon the baſis of the deſire of multiplying our ſpecies, and that is the polite Sir George Etherege; if I underſtand what the lady would be at, in the play called She would if She could. Other poets have, here and there, given an intimation that there is this deſign, under all the diſguiſes and affectations which a lady may put on; but no author, except this, has made ſure work of it, and put the imaginations of the audience upon this one purpoſe, from the beginning to the end of the comedy. It has always fared accordingly; for whether it be, that all who go to this piece would if they could, or that the innocents go to it, to gueſs only what She would if She could, the play has always been well received.

It lifts an heavy empty ſentence, where there is added to it a laſcivious geſture of body; and when it is too low to be raiſed even by that, a flat meaning is enlivened by making it a double one. Writers, who want genius, never fail of keeping this ſecret in reſerve, to create a laugh, or raiſe a clap. I, who know nothing of women but from ſeeing plays, can give great gueſſes at the whole ſtructure of the fair-ſex, by being innocently placed in the pit, and inſulted by the petticoats of their dancers; the advantages of whoſe pretty perſons are a great help to a dull play. When a poet flags in writing luſciouſly, a pretty girl can move laſciviouſly, and have the ſame good conſequence for the author. Dull poets in this caſe uſe their audiences, as dull paraſites do their patrons; when they cannot long divert them with their wit or humour, they bait their ears with ſomething which is agreeable to their temper, though below their underſtanding.

ſtanding. Apicius cannot reſiſt being pleaſed, if you give him an account of a delicious meal; or Clodius, if you deſcribe a wanton beauty; though at the ſame time, if you do not awake thoſe inclinations in them, no men are better judges of what are juſt and delicate in converſation. But, as I have before obſerved, it is eaſier to talk to the man, than to the man of ſenſe.

It is remarkable, that the writers of leaſt learning are beſt ſkilled in the luſcious way. The poeteſſes of the age have done wonders in this kind; and we are obliged to the lady who writ Ibrahim, for introducing a preparatory ſcene to the very action, when the Emperor throws his handkerchief as a ſignal for his miſtreſs to follow him into the moſt retired part of the ſeraglio. It muſt be confeſſed his Turkiſh majeſty went off with a good air, but, methought we made but a ſad figure who waited without. This ingenious gentlewoman, in this piece of bawdry, refined upon an author of the ſame ſex, who, in the Rover, makes a country ſquire ſtrip to his drawers. But Blunt is diſappointed, and the Emperor is underſtood to go on to the utmoſt. The pleaſantry of ſtripping almoſt naked has been ſince practiſed, where indeed it ſhould have begun, very ſucceſsfully at Bartholomew Fair.

It is not here to be omitted, that in one of the above-mentioned female compoſitions, the Rover is very frequently ſent on the ſame errand; as I take it, above once every act. This is not wholly unnatural; for, they ſay, the men-authors draw themſelves in their chief characters, and the women-writers may be allowed the ſame liberty. Thus, as the male wit gives his hero a good fortune, the female gives her heroine a good gallant, at the end of the play. But, indeed, there is hardly a play one can go to, but the hero or fine gentleman of it ſtruts off upon the ſame account, and leaves us to conſider what good office he has put us to, or to employ ourſelves as we pleaſe. To be plain, a man who frequents plays would have a very reſpectful notion of himſelf, were he to recollect how often he has been uſed as a pimp to raviſhing tyrants, or ſucceſsful rakes. When the actors make their exit on this good occaſion, the ladies are ſure to make an examining glance from the pit, to ſee how they reliſh what paſſes; and a few lewd fools are very ready to employ their talents upon the compoſure or freedom of their looks. Such incidents as theſe make ſome ladies wholly abſent themſelves from the play-houſe; and others never miſs the firſt day of a play, leſt it ſhould prove too luſcious to admit their going with any countenance to it on the ſecond.

If men of wit, who think fit to write for the ſtage, inſtead of this pitiful way of giving delight, would turn their thoughts upon raiſing it from ſuch good natural impulſes as are in the audience, but are choked up by vice and luxury, they would not only pleaſe, but befriend us at the ſame time. If a man had a mind to be new in his way of writing, might not he who is now repreſented as a fine gentleman, though he betrays the honour and bed of his neighbour and friend, and lies with half the women in the play, and is at laſt rewarded with her of the beſt character in it; I ſay, upon giving the comedy another caſt, might not ſuch a one divert the audience quite as well, if at the cataſtrophe he were found out for a traitor, and met with contempt accordingly? There is ſeldom a perſon devoted to above one darling vice at a time, ſo that there is room enough to catch at mens hearts to their good and advantage, if the poets will attempt it with the honeſty which becomes their characters.

There is no man who loves his bottle or his miſtreſs, in a manner ſo very abandoned, as not to be capable of reliſhing an agreeable character, that is no way a ſlave to either of theſe purſuits. A man that is temperate, generous, valiant, chaſte, faithful and honeſt, may, at the ſame time, have wit, humour, mirth, good-breeding, and gallantry. While he exerts theſe latter qualities, twenty occaſions might be invented to ſhew he is maſter of the other noble virtues. Such characters would ſmite and reprove the heart of a man of ſenſe, when he is given up to his pleaſures. He would ſee he has been miſtaken all this while, and be convinced that a ſound conſtitution and an innocent mind are the true ingredients for becoming and enjoying life. All men of true taſte would call a man of wit, who ſhould turn his ambition this way, a friend and benefactor to his country; but I am at a loſs what name they would give him, who makes uſe of his capacity for contrary purpoſes.

R

N° LII. MONDAY, APRIL 30.

OMNES UT TECUM MERITIS PRO TALIBUS ANNOS
EXIGAT, ET PULCHRA FACIAT TE PROLE PARENTEM.
VIRG. ÆN. I. 78.

TO CROWN THY WORTH, SHE SHALL BE EVER THINE,
AND MAKE THEE FATHER OF A BEAUTEOUS LINE.

AN ingenious correſpondent, like a ſprightly wife, will always have the laſt word. I did not think my laſt letter to the deformed fraternity would have occaſioned any anſwer, eſpecially ſince I had promiſed them ſo ſudden a viſit; but as they think they cannot ſhew too great a veneration for my perſon, they have already ſent me up an anſwer. As to the propoſal, of a marriage, between myſelf and the matchleſs Hecatiſſa, I have but one objection to it; which is, that all the ſociety will expect to be acquainted with her; and who can be ſure of keeping a woman's heart long, where ſhe may have ſo much choice? I am the more alarmed at this, becauſe the lady ſeems particularly ſmitten with men of their make.

I believe I ſhall ſet my heart upon her; and think never the worſe of my miſtreſs for an epigram a ſmart fellow writ, as he thought, againſt her; it does but the more recommend her to me. At the ſame time I cannot but diſcover that his malice is ſtolen from Martial.

Tacta places, audita places, ſi non videare
Tota places, neutro, ſi videare, places.

Whilſt in the dark on thy ſoft hand I hung,
And heard the tempting Siren in thy tongue,
What flames, what darts, what anguiſh, I endur'd!
But when the candle enter'd I was cur'd.

YOUR letter to us we have received, as a ſignal mark of your favour and brotherly affection. We ſhall be heartily glad to ſee your ſhort face in Oxford; and ſince the wiſdom of our legiſlature has been immortalized in your ſpeculations, and our perſonal deformities in ſome ſort by you recorded to all poſterity; we hold ourſelves in gratitude bound to receive, with the higheſt reſpect, all ſuch perſons as for their extraordinary merit you ſhall think fit, from time to time, to recommend unto the board. As for the Pictiſh damſel, we have an eaſy chair prepared at the upper end of the table; which we doubt not but ſhe will grace with a very hideous aſpect, and much better become the ſeat in the native and unaffected uncomelineſs of her perſon, than with all the ſuperficial airs of the pencil, which, as you have very ingeniouſly obſerved, vaniſh with a breath; and the moſt innocent adorer may deface the ſhrine with a ſalutation, and, in the literal ſenſe of our poets, ſnatch and imprint his balmy kiſſes, and devour her melting lips: in ſhort, the only faces of the Pictiſh kind that will endure the weather, muſt be of Dr. Carbuncle's die; tho' his, in truth, has coſt him a world the painting; but then he boaſts with Zeuxes, *in æternitatem pingo*; and oft jocoſely tells the fair ones, would they acquire colours that would ſtand kiſſing, they muſt no longer paint but drink for a complexion; a maxim that in this our age has been purſued with no ill ſucceſs; and has been as admirable in it's effects, as the famous coſmetic mentioned in the Poſtman, and invented by the renowned Britiſh Hippocrates of the peſtle and mortar; making the party, after a due courſe, roſy, hale, and airy; and the beſt and moſt approved receipt now extant for the fever of the ſpirits. But to return to our female candidate, who, I underſtand, is returned to herſelf, and will no longer hang out falſe colours; as ſhe is the firſt of her ſex that has done us ſo great an honour, ſhe will certainly, in a very ſhort time, both in proſe and verſe, be a lady of the moſt celebrated deformity now living; and meet with admirers here as frightful as herſelf. But being a long-headed gentlewoman, I am apt to imagine ſhe has ſome further deſign than you have yet penetrated; and perhaps has more mind to the Spectator than any of his fraternity, as the perſon of all the world ſhe could like for a paramour: and if ſo, really I cannot but applaud her choice; and ſhould be glad if it might lie in my power, to effect an amicable accommodation betwixt

twixt two faces of such different extremes, as the only possible expedient, to mend the breed, and rectify the physiognomy of the family on both sides. And again, as she is a lady of a very fluent elocution, you need not fear that your first child will be born dumb, which otherwise you might have some reason to be apprehensive of. To be plain with you, I can see nothing shocking in it: for though she has not a face like a John-Apple, yet as a late friend of mine, who at sixty-five ventured on a lass of fifteen, very frequently, in the remaining five years of his life, gave me to understand, that, as old as he then seemed, when they were first married he and his spouse could make but fourscore; so may Madam Hecatissa very justly alledge hereafter, that, as long visaged as she may then be thought, upon their wedding-day, Mr. Spectator and she had but half an ell of face betwixt them; and this my very worthy predecessor, Mr. Serjeant Chin, always maintained to be no more than the true oval proportion between man and wife. But as this may be a new thing to you, who have hitherto had no expectations from women, I shall allow you what time you think fit to consider on it; not without some hope of seeing at last your thoughts hereupon subjoined to mine, and which is an honour much desired by, Sir, your assured friend, and most humble servant,

HUGH GOBLIN, Præses.

The following letter has not much in it; but, as it is written in my own praise, I cannot from my heart suppress it.

SIR,

YOU proposed, in your Spectator of last Tuesday, Mr. Hobbes's hypothesis, for solving that very odd phænomenon of laughter. You have made the hypothesis valuable by espousing it yourself; for, had it continued Mr. Hobbes's, nobody would have minded it. Now here this perplexed case arises. A certain company laughed very heartily upon the reading of that very paper of yours; and the truth on it is, he must be a man of more than ordinary constancy that could stand it out against so much comedy, and not do as we did. Now there are few men in the world so far lost to all good sense, as to look upon you to be a man in a state of folly inferior to himself. Pray then, how do you justify your hypothesis of laughter?

Your most humble,

THURSDAY, THE 26 OF THE MONTH OF FOOLS. Q. R.

IN answer to your letter, I must desire you to recollect yourself; and you will find, that, when you did me the honour to be so merry over my paper, you laughed at the Idiot, the German Courtier, the Gaper, the Merry-Andrew, the Haberdasher, the Biter, the Butt; and not at your humble servant,

R THE SPECTATOR.

N° LIII. TUESDAY, MAY 1.

——ALIQUANDO BONUS DORMITAT HOMERUS.

HOR. ARS POET. VER. 359.

HOMER HIMSELF HATH BEEN OBSERV'D TO NOD. ROSCOMMON.

MY correspondents grow so numerous, that I cannot avoid frequently inserting their applications to me.

MR. SPECTATOR,

I Am glad I can inform you, that your endeavours to adorn that sex, which is the fairest part of the visible creation, are well received, and like to prove not unsuccessful. The triumph of Daphne over her sister Letitia has been the subject of conversation at several tea-tables where I have been present; and I have observed the fair circle not a little pleased to find you considering them as reasonable creatures, and endeavouring to banish that Mahometan custom which had too much prevailed even in this island, of treating woman as if they had no souls. I must do them the justice to say, that there seems to be nothing wanting to the finishing of these lovely pieces of human nature, besides the turning and applying their ambition properly, and the keeping them up to a sense of what is their true merit. Epictetus, that plain honest philosopher, as little as he had of gallantry, appears to have understood them, as well as the polite St. Evremont, and has hit this point very luckily. 'When young women,' says he, 'arrive at a certain age, they hear themselves

'selves called Miſtreſſes, and are made 'to believe that their only buſineſs is 'to pleaſe the men; they immediately 'begin to dreſs, and place all their 'hopes in the adorning of their perſons; 'it is therefore,' continues he, 'worth 'the while to endeavour by all means 'to make them ſenſible, that the honour 'paid to them is only upon account of 'the conducting themſelves with vir-'tue, modeſty, and diſcretion.

Now to purſue the matter yet further, and to render your cares for the improvement of the fair-ones more effectual, I would propoſe a new method, like thoſe applications which are ſaid to convey their virtue by ſympathy; and that is, that in order to embelliſh the miſtreſs, you ſhould give a new education to the lover, and teach the men not to be any longer dazzled by falſe charms and unreal beauty. I cannot but think that if our ſex knew always how to place their eſteem juſtly, the other would not be ſo often wanting to themſelves in deſerving it. For as the being enamoured with a woman of ſenſe and virtue is an improvement to a man's underſtanding and morals, and the paſſion is ennobled by the object which inſpires it; ſo on the other ſide, the appearing amiable to a man of a wiſe and elegant mind, carries in itſelf no ſmall degree of merit and accompliſhment. I conclude therefore, that one way to make the women yet more agreeable is, to make the men more virtuous. I am, Sir, your moſt humble ſervant,

R. B.

SIR, APRIL 29.

YOURS of Saturday laſt I read, not without ſome reſentment; but I will ſuppoſe, when you ſay you expect an inundation of ribbons and brocades, and to ſee many new vanities which the women will fall into upon a peace with France, that you intend only the unthinking part of our ſex; and what methods can reduce them to reaſon is hard to imagine.

But, Sir, there are others yet, that your inſtructions might be of great uſe to, who, after their beſt endeavours, are ſometimes at a loſs to acquit themſelves to a cenſorious world; I am far from thinking you can altogether diſapprove of converſation between ladies and gentlemen, regulated by the rules of honour and prudence; and have thought it an obſervation not ill made, that, where that was wholly denied, the women loſt their wit, and the men their good-manners. 'Tis ſure, from thoſe improper liberties you mentioned, that a ſort of undiſtinguiſhing people ſhall baniſh from their drawing-rooms the beſt-bred men in the world, and condemn thoſe that do not. Your ſtating this point might, I think, be of good uſe, as well as much oblige, Sir, your admirer and moſt humble ſervant,

ANNA BELLA.

No anſwer to this, till Anna Bella ſends a deſcription of thoſe ſhe calls the beſt-bred men in the world.

MR. SPECTATOR,

I Am a gentleman who for many years laſt paſt have been well known to be truly ſplenetic, and that my ſpleen ariſes from having contracted ſo great a delicacy, by reading the beſt authors, and keeping the moſt refined company, that I cannot bear the leaſt impropriety of language, or ruſticity of behaviour. Now, Sir, I have ever looked upon this as a wiſe diſtemper; but by late obſervations find that every heavy wretch, who has nothing to ſay, excuſes his dulneſs by complaining of the ſpleen. Nay, I ſaw, the other day, two fellows in a tavern-kitchen ſet up for it, called for a pint and pipes, and only by guzzling liquor to each other's health, and wafting ſmoke in each other's face, pretend to throw off the ſpleen. I appeal to you whether theſe diſhonours are to be done to the diſtemper of the great and the polite. I beſeech you, Sir, to inform theſe fellows that they have not the ſpleen, becauſe they cannot talk without the help of a glaſs at their mouths, or convey their meaning to each other without the interpoſition of clouds. If you will not do this with all ſpeed, I aſſure you, for my part, I will wholly quit the diſeaſe, and for the future be merry with the vulgar. I am, Sir, Your humble ſervant.

SIR,

THIS is to let you underſtand, that I am a reformed Starer, and conceived a deteſtation for that practice from what you have writ upon the ſubject. But as you have been very ſevere upon the behaviour of us men at divine ſervice, I hope you will not be ſo apparently

parently partial to the women, as to let them go wholly unobſerved. If they do every thing that is poſſible to attract our eyes, are we more culpable than they, for looking at them? I happened laſt Sunday to be ſhut into a pew, which was full of young ladies in their bloom of youth and beauty. When the ſervice began, I had not room to kneel at the Confeſſion, but as I ſtood kept my eyes from wandering as well as I was able, till one of the young ladies, who is a Peeper, reſolved to bring down my looks, and fix my devotion on herſelf. You are to know, Sir, that a Peeper works with her hands, eyes, and fan; one of which is continually in motion, while ſhe thinks ſhe is not actually the admiration of ſome Ogler or Starer in the congregation. As I ſtood, utterly at a loſs how to behave myſelf, ſurrounded as I was, this Peeper ſo placed herſelf as to be kneeling juſt before me. She diſplayed the moſt beautiful boſom imaginable, which heaved and fell with ſome fervour, while a delicate well-ſhaped arm held a fan over her face. It was not in nature to command one's eyes from this object. I could not avoid taking notice alſo of her fan, which had on it various figures, very improper to behold on that occaſion. There lay in the body of the piece a Venus, under a purple canopy furled with curious wreaths of drapery, half naked, attended with a train of Cupids, who were buſied in fanning her as ſhe ſlept. Behind her was drawn a Satyr peeping over the ſilken fence, and threatening to break through it. I frequently offered to turn my ſight another way, but was ſtill detained by the faſcination of the Peeper's eyes, who had long practiſed a ſkill in them, to recal the parting glances of her beholders. You ſee my complaint, and hope you will take theſe miſchievous people, the Peepers, into your conſideration: I doubt not but you will think a Peeper as much more pernicious than a Starer, as an ambuſcade is more to be feared than an open aſſault. I am, Sir,

Your moſt obedient ſervant.

This Peeper uſing both fan and eyes, to be conſidered as a Pict, and proceed accordingly.

KING LATINUS TO THE SPECTATOR, GREETING.

THOUGH ſome may think we deſcend from our imperial dignity, in holding correſpondence with a private Litterato; yet, as we have great reſpect to all good intentions for our ſervice, we do not eſteem it beneath us to return you our royal thanks for what you publiſhed in our behalf, while under confinement in the inchanted caſtle of the Savoy, and for your mention of a ſubſidy for a prince in misfortune. This your timely zeal has inclined the hearts of divers to be aiding unto us, if we could propoſe the means. We have taken their good will into conſideration, and have contrived a method which will be eaſy to thoſe who ſhall give the aid, and not unacceptable to us who receive it. A concert of muſic ſhall be prepared at Haberdaſhers Hall for Wedneſday the ſecond of May, and we will honour the ſaid entertainment with our own preſence, where each perſon ſhall be aſſeſſed but at two ſhillings and ſix-pence. What we expect from you is, that you publiſh theſe our royal intentions, with injunction that they be read at all tea-tables within the cities of London and Weſtminſter; and ſo we bid you heartily farewel.

LATINUS,
King of the Volſcians.

Given at our court in Vinegar Yard, ſtory the third from the earth, April 18, 1711. R

N° LIV. WEDNESDAY, MAY 2.

——STRENUA NOS EXERCET INERTIA.
HOR. EP. I. XI. 28.
LABORIOUS IDLENESS OUR POWERS EMPLOYS.

THE following letter being the firſt that I have received from the learned univerſity of Cambridge, I could not but do myſelf the honour of publiſhing it. It gives an account of a new ſect of philoſophers which has aroſe

in that famous reſidence of learning; and is perhaps the only ſect this age is likely to produce.

CAMBRIDGE, APRIL 26.

MR. SPECTATOR,

BELIEVING you to be an univerſal encourager of liberal arts and ſciences, and glad of any information from the learned world, I thought an account of a ſect of philoſophers very frequent among us, but not taken notice of, as far as I can remember, by any writers either ancient or modern, would not be unacceptable to you. The philoſophers of this ſect are in the language of our univerſity called Lowngers. I am of opinion, that, as in many other things, ſo likewiſe in this, the ancients have been defective; viz. in mentioning no philoſophers of this ſort. Some indeed will affirm that they are a kind of Peripatetics, becauſe we ſee them continually walking about. But I would have theſe gentlemen conſider, that though the ancient Peripatetics walked much, yet they wrote much alſo; witneſs, to the ſorrow of this ſect, Ariſtotle and others: whereas it is notorious that moſt of our profeſſors never lay out a farthing either in pen, ink, or paper. Others are for deriving them from Diogenes, becauſe ſeveral of the leading men of the ſect have a great deal of the cynical humour in them, and delight much in ſunſhine. But then again, Diogenes was content to have his conſtant habitation in a narrow tub, whilſt our philoſophers are ſo far from being of his opinion, that it is death to them to be confined within the limits of a good, handſome, convenient chamber, but for half an hour. Others there are, who, from the clearneſs of their heads deduce the pedigree of Lowngers from that great man, I think it was either Plato or Socrates, who after all his ſtudy and learning, profeſſed, that all he then knew was, that he knew nothing. You eaſily ſee this is but a ſhallow argument, and may be ſoon confuted.

I have with great pains and induſtry made my obſervations, from time to time, upon theſe ſages; and, having now all materials ready, am compiling a treatiſe, wherein I ſhall ſet forth the riſe and progreſs of this famous ſect, together with their maxims, auſterities, manner of living, &c. Having prevailed with a friend, who deſigns ſhortly to publiſh a new edition of Diogenes Laertius, to add this treatiſe of mine by way of ſupplement; I ſhall now, to let the world ſee what may be expected from me, firſt begging Mr. Spectator's leave that the world may ſee it, briefly touch upon ſome of my chief obſervations, and then ſubſcribe myſelf your humble ſervant. In the firſt place, I ſhall give you two or three of their maxims: the fundamental one, upon which their whole ſyſtem is built, is this, viz. That time being an implacable enemy to and deſtroyer of all things, ought to be paid in his own coin, and be deſtroyed and murdered without mercy, by all the ways that can be invented. Another favourite ſaying of theirs is, That buſineſs was deſigned only for knaves, and ſtudy for blockheads. A third ſeems to be a ludicrous one, but has a great effect upon their lives; and is this —'That the devil is at home.' Now for their manner of living: and here I have a large field to expatiate in: but I ſhall reſerve particulars for my intended diſcourſe, and now only mention one or two of their principal exerciſes. The elder proficients employ themſelves in inſpecting *mores hominum multorum*, in getting acquainted with all the ſigns and windows in the town. Some are arrived to ſo great knowledge, that they can tell every time any butcher kills a calf, every time an old woman's cat is in the ſtraw; and a thouſand other matters as important. One ancient philoſopher contemplates two or three hours every day over a ſun-dial; and is true to the dial—

——As the dial to the ſun,
Although it be not ſhone upon.

Our younger ſtudents are content to carry their ſpeculations as yet no farther than bowling-greens, billiard-tables, and ſuch like places. This may ſerve for a ſketch of my deſign; in which I hope I ſhall have your encouragement.

I am, Sir, yours.

I muſt be ſo juſt as to obſerve I have formerly ſeen of this ſect at our other univerſity; though not diſtinguiſhed by the appellation which the learned hiſtorian, my correſpondent, reports they bear at Cambridge. They were ever looked upon as a people that impaired themſelves more by their ſtrict applications to the rules of their order, than

any

any other ſtudents whatever. Others ſeldom hurt themſelves any further than to gain weak eyes, and ſometimes head-achs; but theſe philoſophers are ſeized all over with a general inability, indolence, and wearineſs, and a certain impatience of the place they are in, with an heavineſs in removing to another. The Lowngers are ſatisfied with being merely part of the number of mankind, without diſtinguiſhing themſelves from amongſt them. They may be ſaid rather to ſuffer their time to paſs, than to ſpend it, without regard to the paſt, or proſpect of the future. All they know of life is only the preſent inſtant, and do not taſte even that. When one of this order happens to be a man of fortune, the expence of his time is transferred to his coach and horſes, and his life is to be meaſured by their motion, not his own enjoyments or ſufferings. The chief entertainment one of theſe philoſophers can poſſibly propoſe to himſelf, is to get a reliſh of dreſs. This, methinks, might diverſify the perſon he is weary of, his own dear ſelf, to himſelf. I have known theſe two amuſements make one of theſe philoſophers make a tolerable figure in the world; with variety of dreſſes in public aſſemblies in town, and quick motion of his horſes out of it, now to Bath, now to Tunbridge, then to Newmarket, and then to London, he has in proceſs of time brought it to paſs, that his coach and his horſes have been mentioned in all thoſe places. When the Lowngers leave an academic life, and, inſtead of this more elegant way of appearing in the polite world, retire to the ſeats of their anceſtors, they uſually join a pack of dogs, and employ their days in defending their poultry from foxes: I do not know any other method that any of this order has ever taken to make a noiſe in the world; but I ſhall inquire into ſuch about this town as have arrived at the dignity of being Lowngers by the force of natural parts, without having ever ſeen an univerſity: and ſend my correſpondent, for the embelliſhment of his book, the names and hiſtory of thoſe who paſs their lives without any incidents at all; and how they ſhift coffee-houſes and chocolate-houſes from hour to hour, to get over the inſupportable labour of doing nothing. R

N° LV. THURSDAY, MAY 3.

——INTUS ET IN JECORE ÆGRO
NASCUNTUR DOMINI——

PERS. SAT. v. 129.

OUR PASSIONS PLAY THE TYRANTS IN OUR BREASTS.

MOST of the trades, profeſſions, and ways of living among mankind, take their original either from the love of pleaſure, or the fear of want. The former, when it becomes too violent, degenerates into Luxury, and the latter into Avarice. As theſe two principles of action draw different ways, Perſius has given us a very humorous account of a young fellow who was rouſed out of his bed, in order to be ſent upon a long voyage by Avarice and afterwards over-perſuaded and kept at home by Luxury. I ſhall ſet down at length the pleadings of theſe two imaginary perſons, as they are in the original, with Mr. Dryden's tranſlation of them.

Manè piger ſtertis: ſurge, inquit Avaritia; eia Surge. Negas. Inſtat, ſurge, inquit. Non queo, Surge.
Et quid agam? Rogitas? ſaperdas advehe ponto,
Caſtoreum, fluppas, hebenum, thus, lubrica coa:
Tolle recens primus piper è ſitiente camelo.
Verte aliquid; jura. Sed Jupiter audiet. Eheu!
Baro, reguſtatum digito terebrare ſalinum
Contentus perages, ſi vivere cum Jove tendis.
Jam pueris pellem ſuccinctus et œnophorum aptas
Ocyùs ad navem: nil obſtat quin trabe vaſtâ
Ægæum rapias, niſi ſolers luxuria antè
Seductum moneat; quò deinde inſane, ruis? Quo?
Quid tibi vis? calido ſub pectore maſcula bilis
Intumuit, quam non extinxerit urna cicutæ.
Tun' mare tranſilias? Tibi tortâ cannabe fulto
Cœna ſit in tranſtro? Veientanúmque rubellum
Exhalet vapidâ læſum pice teſſilis, obba?
Quid petis? Ut nummi, quos hìc quincunce modeſto
Nutrieras, peragant avidos ſudare deunces?
Indulge genio: carpamus dulcia: noſtrum eſt,
Quòd vivis; cinis, et manes, et fabula fies.

Vive

Vive memor leti. Fugit hora: hoc quod loquor, inde est.
En quid agis? Duplici in diversum scinderis hamo:
Hunccine, an hunc sequeris?——

Whether alone, or in thy harlot's lap,
When thou wouldst take a lazy morning's nap;
'Up, up,' says Avarice; thou snor'st again,
Stretchest thy limbs, and yawn'st, but all in vain.
The rugged tyrant no denial takes;
At his command th' unwilling sluggard wakes.
'What must I do?' he cries: 'What!' says my lord:
'Why rise, make ready, and go straight 'abroad,
'With fish from Euxine seas, thy vessel 'freight;
'Flax, castor, Coan wines, the precious 'weight
'Of pepper, and Sabean incense, take
'With thy own hands, from the tir'd 'camel's back,
'And with post-haste thy running mar-'kets make.
'Be sure to turn the penny; lye and swear,
'Tis wholesome sin: but Jove, thou say'st, 'will hear.
'Swear, fool, or starve; for the dilemma's 'even:
'A tradesman thou! and hope to go to 'heaven?
Resolv'd for sea, the slaves thy baggage pack,
Each saddled with his burden on his back:
Nothing retards thy voyage now, but he,
That soft, voluptuous prince, call'd Luxury;
And he may ask this civil question; 'Friend,
'What dost thou make a shipboard? To 'what end?
'Art thou of Bethlem's noble college free?
'Stark, staring mad, that thou would'st 'tempt the sea?
'Cubb'd in a cabin, on a mattress laid,
'On a brown George, with loused-swob-'bers, fed;
'Dead wine, that stinks of the Borachio, sup
'From a foul jack, or greasy maple cup?
'Say, would'st thou bear all this, to raise 'thy store,
'From six i'th hundred to six hundred more?
'Indulge, and to thy genius freely give;
'For, not to live at ease, is not to live:
'Death stalks behind thee, and each flying 'hour,
'Does some loose remnant of thy life devour.
'Live, while thou liv'st; for death will 'make us all
A name, a nothing but an old wife's tale.
'Speak: wilt thou Avarice or Pleasure chuse
'To be thy lord? Take one, and one refuse.'

When a government flourishes in conquests, and is secure from foreign attacks, it naturally falls into all the pleasures of luxury; and as these pleasures are very expensive, they put those who are addicted to them upon raising fresh supplies of money, by all the methods of rapaciousness and corruption; so that avarice and luxury very often become one complicated principle of action, in those whose hearts are wholly set upon ease, magnificence, and pleasure. The most elegant and correct of all the Latin historians observes, that in his time, when the most formidable states of the world were subdued by the Romans, the republic sunk into those two vices of a quite different nature, luxury and avarice: and accordingly describes Catiline as one who coveted the wealth of other men, at the same time that he squandered away his own. This observation on the commonwealth, when it was in it's height of power and riches, hold good of all governments that are settled in a state of ease and prosperity. At such times men naturally endeavour to outshine one another in pomp and splendor, and having no fears to alarm them from abroad, indulge themselves in the enjoyment of all the pleasures they can get in their possession; which naturally produces avarice, and an immoderate pursuit after wealth and riches.

As I was humouring myself in the speculation of these two great principles of action, I could not forbear throwing my thoughts into a little kind of allegory or fable, with which I shall here present my reader.

There were two very powerful tyrants engaged in a perpetual war against each other: the name of the first was Luxury; and of the second Avarice. The aim of each of them was no less than universal monarchy over the hearts of mankind. Luxury had many generals under him, who did him great services, as Pleasure, Mirth, Pomp, and Fashion. Avarice was likewise very strong in his officers, being faithfully served by Hunger, Industry, Care, and Watchfulness: he had likewise a privy counsellor who was always at his elbow, and whispering something or other in his ear: the name of this privy-counsellor was Poverty. As Avarice conducted himself by the counsels of Poverty, his antagonist was entirely guided by the dictates and advice of Plenty, who was his first counsellor and minister of state, that concerted all his measures for him, and never departed out of his sight. While these two great rivals were thus contending for empire, their conquests were very various. Luxury got possession of one heart,

heart, and Avarice of another. The father of a family would often range himſelf under the banners of Avarice, and the ſon under thoſe of Luxury. The wife and huſband would often declare themſelves on the two different parties; nay, the ſame perſon would very often ſide with one in his youth, and revolt to the other in his old age. Indeed the wiſe men of the world ſtood neuter: but alas! their numbers were not conſiderable. At length, when theſe two potentates had wearied themſelves with waging war upon one another, they agreed upon an interview, at which neither of their counſellors were to be preſent. It is ſaid that Luxury began the parley, and after having repreſented the endleſs ſtate of war in which they were engaged, told his enemy, with a frankneſs of heart which is natural to him, that he believed they two ſhould be very good friends, were it not for the inſtigations of Poverty, that pernicious counſellor, who made an ill uſe of his ear, and filled him with groundleſs apprehenſions, and prejudices. To this Avarice replied, that he looked upon Plenty, the firſt miniſter of his antagoniſt, to be a much more deſtructive counſellor than Poverty, for that he was perpetually ſuggeſting pleaſures, baniſhing all the neceſſary cautions againſt want, and conſequently undermining thoſe principles on which the government of Avarice was founded. At laſt, in order to an accommodation, they agreed upon this preliminary: that each of them ſhould immediately diſmiſs his privy-couſellor. When things were thus far adjuſted towards a peace, all other differences were ſoon accommodated, inſomuch that for the future they reſolved to live as good friends and confederates, and to ſhare between them whatever conqueſts were made on either ſide. For this reaſon, we now find Luxury and Avarice taking poſſeſſion of the ſame heart, and dividing the ſame perſon between them. To which I ſhall only add, that ſince the diſcarding of the counſellors above-mentioned, Avarice ſupplies Luxury in the room of Plenty, as Luxury prompts Avarice in the place of Poverty.

C

N° LVI. FRIDAY, MAY 4.

FELICES ERRORE SUO—— LUCAN, I. 454.

HAPPY IN THEIR MISTAKE.

THE Americans believe that all creatures have ſouls, not only men and women, but brutes, vegetables, nay even the moſt inanimate things, as ſtocks and ſtones. They believe the ſame of all the works of art, as of knives, boots, looking glaſſes; and that as any of theſe things periſh, their ſouls go into another world, which is inhabited by the ghoſts of men and women. For this reaſon they always place by the corpſe of their dead friend a bow and arrows, that he may make uſe of them in the other world, as he did of their wooden bodies in this. How abſurd ſoever ſuch an opinion as this may appear, our European philoſophers have maintained ſeveral notions altogether as improbable. Some of Plato's followers in particular, when they talk of the world of ideas, entertain us with ſubſtances and beings no leſs extravagant and chimerical. Many Ariſtotelians have likewiſe ſpoken as unintelligibly of their ſubſtantial forms. I ſhall only inſtance Albertus Magnus, who in his diſſertation upon the loadſtone obſerving, that fire will deſtroy it's magnetic virtues, tells us that he took particular notice of one as it lay glowing amidſt an heap of burning coals, and that he perceived a certain blue vapour to ariſe from it, which he believed might be the ſubſtantial form, that is, in our Weſt Indian phraſe, the Soul of the loadſtone.

There is a tradition among the Americans, that one of their countrymen deſcended in a viſion to the great repoſitory of ſouls, or, as we call it here, to the other world; and that upon his return he gave his friends a diſtinct account of every thing he ſaw among thoſe regions of the dead. A friend of mine, whom I have formerly mentioned, prevailed upon one of the interpreters of the Indian kings, to inquire of them, if poſſible, what tradition they have among them of this matter; which, a

well

well as he could learn by many queſtions which he aſked them at ſeveral times, was in ſubſtance as follows:

The viſionary, whoſe name was Marraton, after having travelled for a long ſpace under an hollow mountain, arrived at length on the confines of this world of ſpirits, but could not enter it by reaſon of a thick foreſt made up of buſhes, brambles, and pointed thorns, ſo perplexed and interwoven with one another, that it was impoſſible to find a paſſage through it. Whilſt he was looking about for ſome track or path-way that might be worn in any part of it, he ſaw an huge lion couched under the ſide of it, who kept his eye upon him in the ſame poſture as when he watches for his prey. The Indian immediately ſtarted back, whilſt the lion roſe with a ſpring, and leaped towards him. Being wholly deſtitute of all other weapons, he ſtooped down to take up an huge ſtone in his hand; but to his infinite ſurpriſe graſped nothing, and found the ſuppoſed ſtone to be only the apparition of one. If he was diſappointed on this ſide, he was as much pleaſed on the other, when he found the lion, which had ſeized on his left-ſhoulder, had no power to hurt him, and was only the ghoſt of that ravenous creature which it appeared to be. He no ſooner got rid of his impotent enemy, but he marched up to the wood, and after having ſurveyed it for ſome time, endeavoured to preſs into one part of it that was a little thinner than the reſt; when again, to his great ſurprize, he found the buſhes made no reſiſtance, but he walked through briars and brambles with the ſame eaſe as through the open air; and, in ſhort, that this whole wood was nothing elſe but a wood of ſhades. He immediately concluded, that this huge thicket of thorns and brakes was deſigned as a kind of fence or quick-ſet hedge to the ghoſts it incloſed; and that probably their ſoft ſubſtances might be torn by theſe ſubtle points and prickles, which were too weak to make any impreſſions on fleſh and blood. With this thought he reſolved to travel thro' this intricate wood; when by degrees he felt a gale of perfumes breathing upon him, that grew ſtronger and ſweeter in proportion as he advanced. He had not proceeded much further, when he obſerved the thorns and briers to end, and give place to a thouſand beautiful green trees covered with bloſſoms of the fineſt ſcents and colours, that formed a wilderneſs of ſweets, and were a kind of lining to thoſe ragged ſcenes which he had before paſſed through. As he was coming out of this delightful part of the wood, and entering upon the plains it encloſed, he ſaw ſeveral horſemen ruſhing by him, and a little while after heard the cry of a pack of dogs. He had not liſtened long before he ſaw the apparition of a milk-white ſteed, with a young man on the back of it, advancing upon full-ſtretch after the ſouls of about an hundred beagles that were hunting down the ghoſt of an hare, which run away before them with an unſpeakable ſwiftneſs. As the man on the milk-white ſteed came by him, he looked upon him very attentively, and found him to be the young Prince Nicharagua, who died about half a year before, and by reaſon of his great virtues was at that time lamented over all the weſtern parts of America.

He had no ſooner got out of the wood, but he was entertained with ſuch a landſkip of flowery plains, green meadows, running ſtreams, ſunny hills, and ſhady vales, as were not to be repreſented by his own expreſſions, nor, as he ſaid, by the conceptions of others. This happy region was peopled with innumerable ſwarms of ſpirits, who applied themſelves to exerciſes and diverſions according as their fancies led them. Some of them were toſſing the figure of a coit; others were pitching the ſhadow of a bar; others were breaking the apparition of a horſe; and multitudes employing themſelves upon ingenious handicrafts with the ſouls of departed utenſils; for that is the name which in the Indian language they give their tools when they are burnt or broken. As he travelled through this delightful ſcene, he was very often tempted to pluck the flowers that roſe every where about him in the greateſt variety and profuſion, having never ſeen ſeveral of them in his own country; but he quickly found that though they were objects of his ſight, they were not liable to his touch. He at length came to the ſide of a great river, and being a good fiſherman himſelf, ſtood upon the banks of it ſome time to look upon an angler that had taken a great many ſhapes of fiſhes, which lay flouncing up and down by him.

I ſhould have told my reader, that this

R. Smirke del. Walker sculp.

Plate XII. Published as the Act directs, by Harrison & Co. March 1. 1786.

this Indian had been formerly married to one of the greateſt beauties of his country, by whom he had ſeveral children. This couple were ſo famous for their love and conſtancy to one another, that the Indians to this day, when they give a married man joy of his wife, wiſh that they may live together like Marraton and Yaratilda. Marraton had not ſtood long by the fiſherman when he ſaw the ſhadow of his beloved Yaratilda, who had for ſome time fixed her eyes upon him before he diſcovered her. Her arms were ſtretched out towards him, floods of tears ran down her eyes; her looks, her hands, her voice called him over to her; and at the ſame time ſeemed to tell him that the river was unpaſſable. Who can deſcribe the paſſion made up of joy, ſorrow, love, deſire, aſtoniſhment, that roſe in the Indian upon the ſight of his dear Yaratilda? He could expreſs it by nothing but his tears, which ran like a river down his cheeks as he looked upon her. He had not ſtood in this poſture long, before he plunged into the ſtream that lay before him; and finding it to be nothing but the phantom of a river, walked on the bottom of it until he roſe on the other ſide. At his approach Yaratilda flew into his arms, whilſt Marraton wiſhed himſelf diſencumbered of that body which kept her from his embraces. After many queſtions and endearments on both ſides, ſhe conducted him to a bower which ſhe had dreſſed with her own hands with all the ornaments that could be met with in thoſe blooming regions. She had made it gay beyond imagination, and was every day adding ſomething new to it. As Marraton ſtood aſtoniſhed at the unſpeakable beauty of her habitation, and raviſhed with the fragrancy that came from every part of it, Yaratilda told him that ſhe was preparing this bower for his reception, as well knowing that his piety to his god, and his faithful dealing towards men, would certainly bring him to that happy place, whenever his life ſhould be at an end. She then brought two of her children to him, who died ſome years before, and reſided with her in the ſame delightful bower; adviſing him to breed up thoſe others which were ſtill with him in ſuch a manner, that they might hereafter all of them meet together in this happy place.

The tradition tells us further, that he had afterwards a ſight of thoſe diſmal habitations which are the portion of ill men after death; and mentions ſeveral molten ſeas of gold, in which were plunged the ſouls of barbarous Europeans, who put to the ſword ſo many thouſands of poor Indians for the ſake of that precious metal; but having already touched upon the chief points of this tradition, and exceeded the meaſure of my paper, I ſhall not give any further account of it. C

N° LVII. SATURDAY, MAY 5.

QUEM PRÆSTARE POTEST MULIER GALEATA PUDOREM,
QUÆ FUGIT A SEXU?——

JUV. SAT. VI. 251.

WHAT SENSE OF SHAME IN WOMAN'S BREAST CAN LIE,
INUR'D TO ARMS, AND HER OWN SEX TO FLY? DRYDEN.

WHEN the wife of Hector, in Homer's Iliads, diſcourſes with her huſband about the battle in which he was going to engage; the hero, deſiring her to leave that matter to his care, bids her go to her maids and mind her ſpinning; by which the poet intimates, that men and women ought to buſy themſelves in their proper ſpheres, and on ſuch matters only as are ſuitable to their reſpective ſex.

I am at this time acquainted with a young gentleman, who has paſſed a great part of his life in the nurſery, and, upon occaſion, can make a caudle or a ſack-poſſet better than any man in England. He is likewiſe a wonderful critic in cambric and muſlins, and will talk an hour together upon a ſweet-meat. He entertains his mother every night with obſervations that he makes both in town and court; as what lady ſhews the niceſt fancy in her dreſs; what man of quality wears the faireſt wig; who has the fineſt linen, who the prettieſt ſnuff-box, with many other the like curious remarks, that may be made in good company.

On the other hand, I have very frequently the opportunity of ſeeing a rural Andromache, who came up to town laſt winter, and is one of the greateſt fox-hunters in the country. She talks of hounds and horſes, and makes nothing of leaping over a ſix-bar gate. If a man tells her a waggiſh ſtory, ſhe gives him a puſh with her hand in jeſt, and calls him an impudent dog: and if her ſervant neglects his buſineſs, threatens to kick him out of the houſe. I have heard her, in her wrath, call a ſubſtantial tradeſman a louſy cur; and remember one day, when ſhe could not think of the name of a perſon, ſhe deſcribed him, in a large company of men and ladies, by the fellow with the broad-ſhoulders.

If thoſe ſpeeches and actions, which in their own nature are indifferent, appear ridiculous when they proceed from a wrong ſex, the faults and imperfections of one ſex tranſplanted into another appear black and monſtrous. As for the men, I ſhall not in this paper any further concern myſelf about them; but as I would fain contribute to make woman-kind, which is the moſt beautiful part of the creation, intirely amiable, and wear out all thoſe little ſpots and blemiſhes that are apt to riſe among the charms which nature has poured out upon them, I ſhall dedicate this paper to their ſervice. The ſpot which I would here endeavour to clear them of, is that party-rage which of late years is very much crept into their converſation. This is, in it's nature, a male vice, and made up of many angry and cruel paſſions that are altogether repugnant to the ſoftneſs, the modeſty, and thoſe other endearing qualities which are natural to the fair-ſex. Women were formed to temper mankind, and ſoothe them into tenderneſs and compaſſion: not to ſet an edge upon their minds, and blow up in them thoſe paſſions which are too apt to riſe of their own accord. When I have ſeen a pretty mouth uttering calumnies and invectives, what would I not have given to have ſtopt it? How have I been troubled to ſee ſome of the fineſt features in the world grow pale, and tremble with party-rage; Camilla is one of the greateſt beauties in the Britiſh nation, and yet values herſelf more upon being the Virago of one party, than upon being the toaſt of both. The dear creature, about a week ago, encountered the fierce and beautiful Penthefilea acroſs a tea-table; but in the height of her anger, as her hand chanced to ſhake with the earneſtneſs of the diſpute, ſhe ſcalded her fingers, and ſpilt a diſh of tea upon her petticoat. Had not this accident broke off the debate, nobody knows where it would have ended.

There is one conſideration which I would earneſtly recommend to all my female readers, and which, I hope, will have ſome weight with them. In ſhort, it is this, that there is nothing ſo bad for the face as party-zeal. It gives an ill-natured caſt to the eye, and a diſagreeable ſourneſs to the look; beſides, that it makes the lines too ſtrong, and flushes them worſe than brandy. I have ſeen a woman's face break out in heats, as ſhe has been talking againſt a great lord, whom ſhe had never ſeen in her life; and indeed never knew a party woman that kept her beauty for a twelvemonth. I would therefore adviſe all my female readers, as they value their complexions, to let alone all diſputes of this nature; though, at the ſame time, I would give free liberty to all ſuperannuated motherly partizans to be as violent as they pleaſe, ſince there will be no danger either of their ſpoiling their faces, or of their gaining converts.

For my own part, I think a man makes an odious and deſpicable figure, that is violent in a party; but a woman is too ſincere to mitigate the fury of her principles with temper and diſcretion, and to act with that caution and reſervedneſs which are requiſite in our ſex. When this unnatural zeal gets into them, it throws them into ten thouſand heats and extravagancies; their generous ſouls ſet no bounds to their love, or to their hatred; and whether a Whig or a Tory, a lap-dog or a gallant, an opera or puppet-ſhow, be the object of it, the paſſion, while it reigns, engroſſes the whole woman.

I remember when Dr. Titus Oates was in all his glory, I accompanied my friend Will. Honeycomb in a viſit to a lady of his acquaintance. We were no ſooner ſat down, but upon caſting my eyes about the room, I found in almoſt every corner of it a print that repreſented the doctor in all magnitudes and dimenſions. A little after, as the lady was diſcourſing my friend, and held her ſnuff-box in her hand, who ſhould I ſee in the lid of it but the doctor? It was

not

not long after this when she had occasion for her handkerchief, which upon the first opening discovered among the plaits of it the figure of the doctor. Upon this my friend Will, who loves raillery, told her, that if he was in Mr. Truelove's place, for that was the name of her husband, he should be made as uneasy by a handkerchief as ever Othello was. 'I am afraid,' said she, 'Mr. 'Honeycomb, you are a Tory; tell me 'truly, are you a friend to the doctor 'or not?' Will, instead of making her a reply, smiled in her face, for indeed she was very pretty, and told her that one of her patches was dropping off. She immediately adjusted it, and looking a little seriously, 'Well,' says she, 'I'll 'be hanged if you and your friend there 'are not against the doctor in your 'hearts. I suspected as much by his 'saying nothing.' Upon this she took her fan into her hand, and upon the opening of it again displayed to us the figure of the doctor, who was placed with great gravity among the sticks of it. In a word, I found that the doctor had taken possession of her thoughts, her discourse, and most of her furniture; but finding myself pressed too close by her question, I winked upon my friend to take his leave, which he did accordingly. C

N° LVIII. MONDAY, MAY 7.

UT PICTURA POESIS ERIT ———

HOR. ARS POET. VER. 361.

POEMS LIKE PICTURES ARE.

NOTHING is so much admired, and so little understood, as wit. No author that I know of has written professedly upon it; and as for those who make any mention of it, they only treat on the subject as it has accidentally fallen in their way, and that too in little short reflections, or in general declamatory flourishes, without entering into the bottom of the matter. I hope therefore I shall perform an acceptable work to my countrymen, if I treat at large upon this subject; which I shall endeavour to do in a manner suitable to it, that I may not incur the censure which a famous critic bestows upon one who had written a treatise upon the Sublime in a low groveling stile. I intend to lay aside a whole week for this undertaking, that the scheme of my thoughts may not be broken and interrupted; and I dare promise myself, if my readers will give me a week's attention, that this great city will be very much changed for the better by next Saturday night. I shall endeavour to make what I say intelligible to ordinary capacities; but if my readers meet with any paper that in some parts of it may be a little out of their reach, I would not have them discouraged, for they may assure themselves the next shall be much clearer.

As the great and only end of these my speculations is to banish vice and ignorance out of the territories of Great-Britain, I shall endeavour as much as possible to establish among us a taste of polite writing. It is with this view that I have endeavoured to set my readers right in several points relating to Operas and Tragedies; and shall from time to time impart my notions of Comedy, as I think they may tend to it's refinement and perfection. I find by my bookseller that these papers of criticism, with that upon humour, have met with a more kind reception than indeed I could have hoped for from such subjects; for which reason I shall enter upon my present undertaking with greater chearfulness.

In this, and one or two following papers, I shall trace out the history of false wit, and distinguish the several kinds of it as they have prevailed in different ages of the world. This I think the more necessary at present, because I observed there were attempts on foot last winter to revive some of those antiquated modes of wit that have been long exploded out of the commonwealth of letters. There were several satires and panegyrics handed about in acrostic, by which means some of the most arrant undisputed blockheads about the town began to entertain ambitious thoughts, and to set up for polite authors. I shall therefore describe at length those many arts of false wit, in which a writer does

not ſhew himſelf a man of a beautiful genius, but of great induſtry.

The firſt ſpecies of falſe wit which I have met with is very venerable for it's antiquity, and has produced ſeveral pieces which have lived very near as long as the Iliad itſelf: I mean thoſe ſhort poems printed among the minor Greek poets, which reſemble the figure of an egg, a pair of wings, an ax, a ſhepherd's pipe and an altar.

As for the firſt, it is a little oval poem, and may not improperly be called a ſcholar's egg. I would endeavour to hatch it, or, in more intelligible language, to tranſlate it into Engliſh, did I not find the interpretation of it very difficult; for the author ſeems to have been more intent upon the figure of his poem, than upon the ſenſe of it.

The pair of wings conſiſt of twelve verſes, or rather feathers, every verſe decreaſing gradually in it's meaſure according to it's ſituation in the wing. The ſubject of it, as in the reſt of the poems which follow, bears ſome remote affinity with the figure, for it deſcribes a god of love, who is always painted with wings.

The ax methinks would have been a good figure for a lampoon, had the edge of it conſiſted of the moſt ſatirical parts of the work; but as it is in the original, I take it to have been nothing elſe but the poſy of an ax which was conſecrated to Minerva, and was thought to have been the ſame that Epeus made uſe of in the building of the Trojan horſe; which is a hint I ſhall leave to the conſideration of the critics. I am apt to think that the poſy was witten originally upon the ax, like thoſe which our modern cutlers inſcribe upon their knives; and that therefore the poſy ſtill remains in it's ancient ſhape, though the ax itſelf is loſt.

The ſhepherd's pipe may be ſaid to be full of muſic, for it is compoſed of nine different kinds of verſes, which by their ſeveral lengths reſemble the nine ſtops of the old muſical inſtrument, that is likewiſe the ſubject of the poem.

The altar is inſcribed with the epitaph of Troilus the ſon of Hecuba; which, by the way, makes me believe, that theſe falſe pieces of wit are much more ancient than the authors to which they are generally aſcribed; at leaſt I will never be perſuaded, that ſo fine a writer as Theocritus could have been the author of any ſuch ſimple works.

It was impoſſible for a man to ſucceed in theſe performances who was not a kind of painter, or at leaſt a deſigner: he was firſt of all to draw the outline of the ſubject which he intended to write upon, and afterwards conform the deſcription to the figure of his ſubject. The poetry was to contract or dilate itſelf according to the mould in which it was caſt. In a word, the verſes were to be cramped or extended to the dimenſions of the frame that was prepared for them, and to undergo the fate of thoſe perſons whom the tyrant Procuſtes uſed to lodge in his iron bed; if they were too ſhort, he ſtretched them on a rack; and if they were too long, chopped off a part of their legs, till they fitted the couch which he had prepared for them.

Mr. Dryden hints at this obſolete kind of wit in one of the following verſes in his Mac Flecno; which an Engliſh reader cannot underſtand, who does not know that there are thoſe little poems above-mentioned in the ſhape of wings and altars.

—Chuſe for thy command
Some peaceful province in acroſtic land;
There may'ſt thou wings diſplay, and altars raiſe,
And torture one poor word a thouſand ways.

This faſhion of falſe wit was revived by ſeveral poets of the laſt age, and in particular may be met with among Mr. Herbert's poems; and, if I am not miſtaken, in the tranſlation of Du Bartas. I do not remember any other kind of work among the moderns which more reſembles the performances I have mentioned, than that famous picture of King Charles the Firſt, which has the whole book of Pſalms written in the lines of the face and the hair of the head. When I was laſt at Oxford, I peruſed one of the whiſkers; and was reading the other, but could not go ſo far in it as I would have done, by reaſon of the impatience of my friends and fellow-travellers, who all of them preſſed to ſee ſuch a piece of curioſity. I have ſince heard, that there is now an eminent writing-maſter in town, who has tranſcribed all the Old Teſtament in a full bottomed perriwig; and if the faſhion ſhould introduce the thick kind of wigs which were in vogue ſome years ago, he promiſes

to

to add two or three ſupernumerary locks that ſhall contain all the Apocrypha. He deſigned this wig originally for King William, having diſpoſed of the two books of Kings in the two forks of the foretop; but that glorious monarch dying before the wig was finiſhed, there is a ſpace left in it for the face of any one that has a mind to purchaſe it.

But to return to our ancient poems in picture; I would humbly propoſe, for the benefit of our modern ſmatterers in poetry, that they would imitate their brethren among the ancients in thoſe ingenious devices. I have communicated this thought to a young poetical lover of my acquaintance, who intends to preſent his miſtreſs with a copy of verſes made in the ſhape of her fan; and, if he tells me true, has already finiſhed the three firſt ſticks of it. He has likewiſe promiſed me to get the meaſure of his miſtreſs's marriage-finger, with a deſign to make a poſy in the faſhion of a ring, which ſhall exactly fit it. It is ſo very eaſy to enlarge upon a good hint, that I do not queſtion but my ingenious reader will apply what I have ſaid to many other particulars; and that we ſhall ſee the town filled in a very little time, with poetical tippets, handkerchiefs, ſnuff-boxes, and the like female ornaments. I ſhall therefore conclude with a word of advice to thoſe admirable Engliſh authors who call themſelves Pindaric writers, that they would apply themſelves to this kind of wit without loſs of time, as being provided better than any other poets with verſes of all ſizes and dimenſions. C

N° LIX. TUESDAY, MAY 8.

OPEROSÆ NIHIL AGUNT. SENECA.

BUSY ABOUT NOTHING.

THERE is nothing more certain than that every man would be a wit if he could; and notwithſtanding pedants of a pretended depth and ſolidity are apt to decry the writings of a polite author, as Flaſh and Froth, they all of them ſhew upon occaſion that they would ſpare no pains to arrive at the character of thoſe whom they ſeem to deſpiſe. For this reaſon we often find them endeavouring at works of fancy, which coſt them infinite pangs in the production. The truth of it is, a man had better be a galley-ſlave than a wit, were one to gain that title by thoſe elaborate trifles which have been the inventions of ſuch authors as were often maſters of great learning but no genius.

In my laſt paper, I mentioned ſome of thoſe falſe wits among the ancients, and in this ſhall give the reader two or three other ſpecies of them, that flouriſhed in the ſame early ages of the world. The firſt I ſhall produce are the Lipogrammatiſts or Letter-droppers of antiquity, that would take an exception, without any reaſon, againſt ſome particular letter in the alphabet, ſo as not to admit it once into a whole poem. One Tryphiodorus was a great maſter in this kind of writing. He compoſed an Odyſſey or epic poem on the adventures of Ulyſſes, conſiſting of four-and-twenty books, having entirely baniſhed the letter A from his firſt book, which was called Alpha, as *Lucus à non Lucendo*, becauſe there was not an Alpha in it. His ſecond book was inſcribed Beta for the ſame reaſon. In ſhort, the poet excluded the whole four-and-twenty letters in their turns, and ſhewed them, one after another, that he could do his buſineſs without them.

It muſt have been very pleaſant to have ſeen this poet avoiding the reprobate letter, as much as another would a falſe quantity, and making his eſcape from it through the ſeveral Greek dialects, when he was preſſed with it in any particular ſyllable. For the moſt apt and elegant word in the whole language was rejected, like a diamond with a flaw in it, if it appeared blemiſhed with a wrong letter. I ſhall only obſerve upon this head, that if the work I have here mentioned had been now extant, the Odyſſey of Tryphiodorus, in all probability, would have been oftener quoted by our learned pedants, than the Odyſſey of Homer. What a perpetual fund would it have been of obſolete words and phraſes, unuſual barbariſms and ruſticities, abſurd ſpellings, and complicated

complicated dialects? I make no queſtion but it would have been looked upon as one of the moſt valuable treaſuries of the Greek tongue.

I find likewiſe among the ancients that ingenious kind of conceit, which the moderns diſtinguiſh by the name of a Rebus, that does not ſink a letter but a whole word, by ſubſtituting a picture in it's place. When Cæſar was one of the maſters of the Roman mint, he placed the figure of an elephant upon the reverſe of the public money; the word Cæſar ſignifying an elephant in the Punic language. This was artificially contrived by Cæſar, becauſe it was not lawful for a private man to ſtamp his own figure upon the coin of the commonwealth. Cicero, who was ſo called from the founder of his family, that was marked on the noſe with a little wen like a vetch, which is *Cicer* in Latin, inſtead of *Marcus Tullius Cicero*, ordered the words *Marcus Tullius*, with the figure of a vetch at the end of them, to be inſcribed on a public monument. This was done probably to ſhew that he was neither aſhamed of his name or family, notwithſtanding the envy of his competitors had often reproached him with both. In the ſame manner we read of a famous building that was marked in ſeveral parts of it with the figures of a frog and a lizard: thoſe words in Greek having been the names of the architects who by the laws of their country were never permitted to inſcribe their own names upon their works. For the ſame reaſon it is thought, that the forelock of the horſe, in the antique equeſtrian ſtatue of Marcus Aurelius, repreſents at a diſtance the ſhape of an owl, to intimate the country of the ſtatuary, who, in all probability, was an Athenian. This kind of wit was very much in vogue among our own countrymen about an age or two ago, who did not practiſe it for any oblique reaſon, as the ancients above-mentioned, but purely for the ſake of being witty. Among innumerable inſtances that may be given of this nature, I ſhall produce the device of one Mr. Newberry, as I find it mentioned by our learned Cambden in his remains. Mr. Newberry, to repreſent his name by a picture, hung up at his door the ſign of a yew-tree that had ſeveral berries upon it, and in the midſt of them a great golden N hung upon a bough of the tree, which by the help of a little falſe ſpelling made up the word N-ew-berry.

I ſhall conclude this topic with a Rebus, which has been lately hewn out of free-ſtone, and erected over two of the portals of Blenheim houſe, being the figure of a monſtrous lion tearing to pieces a little cock. For the better underſtanding of which device, I muſt acquaint my Engliſh reader that a cock has the misfortune to be called in Latin by the ſame word that ſignifies a Frenchman, as a lion is an emblem of the Engliſh nation. Such a device in ſo noble a pile of building looks like a pun in an heroic poem; and I am very ſorry the truly ingenious architect would ſuffer the ſtatuary to blemiſh his excellent plan with ſo poor a conceit: but I hope what I have ſaid will gain quarter for the cock, and deliver him out of the lion's paw.

I find likewiſe in ancient times the conceit of making an echo talk ſenſibly, and give rational anſwers. If this could be excuſable in any writer, it would be in Ovid, where he introduces the echo as a nymph, before ſhe was worn away into nothing but a voice. The learned Eraſmus, though a man of wit and genius, has compoſed a dialogue upon this ſilly kind of device, and made uſe of an echo who ſeems to have been a very extraordinary linguiſt, for ſhe anſwers the perſon ſhe talks with in Latin, Greek, and Hebrew, according as ſhe found the ſyllables which ſhe was to repeat in any of thoſe learned languages. Hudibras, in ridicule of this falſe kind of wit, has deſcribed Orſin bewailing the loſs of his bear to a ſolitary echo, who is of great uſe to the poet in ſeveral diſtichs, as ſhe does not only repeat after him, but helps out his verſe, and furniſhes him with rhymes.

He rag'd, and kept as heavy a coil as
Stout Hercules for loſs of Hylas;
Forcing the vallies to repeat
The accents of his ſad regret.
He beat his breaſt, and tore his hair,
For loſs of his dear crony bear,
That echo from the hollow ground
His doleful wailings did reſound
More wiſtfully, by many times,
Than in ſmall-poets ſplay foot rhymes,
That make her, in their rueful ſtories,
To anſwer to int'rogatories,
And moſt unconſcionably depoſe
Things of which ſhe nothing knows:

And

And when she has said all she can say,
'Tis wrested to the lover's fancy.
Quoth he—O whither, wicked Bruin,
Art thou fled to my—echo, Ruin?
I thought th' hadst scorn'd to budge a step
For fear, quoth echo, Marry guep.
Am not I here to take thy part?
Then what has quell'd thy stubborn heart?
Have these bones rattled, and this head
So often in thy quarrel bled?
Nor did I ever winch or grudge it,
For thy dear sake? Quoth she, Mum budget,
Think'st thou 'twill not be laid i' th' dish
Thou turn'st thy back? Quoth echo, Pish.
To run from those th' hadst overcome
Thus cowardly? Quoth echo, Mum.
But what a-vengeance makes thee fly
From me too as thine enemy?
Or if thou hadst not thought of me,
Nor what I have endur'd for thee,
Yet shame and honour might prevail
To keep thee thus from turning tail:
For who would grudge to spend his blood in
His honour's cause? Quoth she, a Pudding.

C

N° LX. WEDNESDAY, MAY 9.

HOC EST QUOD PALLES? CUR QUIS NON PRANDEAT, HOC EST?
PERS. SAT. iii. 85.

IS IT FOR THIS YOU GAIN THOSE MEAGRE LOOKS,
AND SACRIFICE YOUR DINNER TO YOUR BOOKS?

SEVERAL kinds of false wit that vanished in the refined ages of the world, discovered themselves again in the time of monkish ignorance.

As the monks were the masters of all that little learning which was then extant, and had their whole lives disengaged from business, it is no wonder that several of them, who wanted genius for higher performances, employed many hours in the composition of such tricks in writing as required much time and little capacity. I have seen half the Æneid turned into Latin rhymes by one of the Beaux-Esprits of that dark age; who says in his preface to it, that the Æneid wanted nothing but the sweets of rhyme to make it the most perfect work in it's kind. I have likewise seen an hymn in hexameters to the Virgin Mary, which filled a whole book, though it consisted but of the eight following words.

Tot, tibi, sunt, Virgo, dotes, quot, sidera, Cælo.

Thou hast as many virtues, O virgin, as there are stars in Heaven.

The poet rung the changes upon these eight several words, and by that means made his verses almost as numerous as the virtues and the stars which they celebrated. It is no wonder that men who had so much time upon their hands, did not only restore all the antiquated pieces of false wit, but enriched the world with inventions of their own. It was to this age that we owe the production of anagrams, which is nothing else but a transmutation of one word into another, or the turning the same set of letters into different words; which may change night into day, or black into white, if Chance, who is the goddess that presides over these sorts of composition, shall so direct. I remember a witty author, in allusion to this kind of writing, calls his rival, who, it seems, was distorted and had his limbs set in places that did not properly belong to them, the anagram of a man.

When the anagrammatist takes a name to work upon, he considers it at first as a mine not broken up, which will not shew the treasure it contains till he shall have spent many hours in the search of it; for it is his business to find out one word that conceals itself in another, and to examine the letters in all the variety of stations in which they can possibly be ranged. I have heard of a gentleman who, when this kind of wit was in fashion, endeavoured to gain his mistress's heart by it. She was one of the finest women of her age, and known by the name of the Lady Mary Boon. The lover not being able to make any thing of Mary, by certain liberties indulged to this kind of writing, converted it into Moll; and after having shut himself up for half a year, with indefatigable industry produced an anagram. Upon the presenting it to his mistress, who was a little vexed in her heart to see herself degraded into Moll Boon, she told him, to his infinite surprise, that he had mistaken her surname, for that it was not Boon but Bohun.

——— Ibi omnis
Effusus labor———

The lover was thunder-ſtruck with his misfortune, inſomuch that in a little time after he loſt his ſenſes, which indeed had been very much impaired by that continual application he had given to his anagram.

The acroſtic was probably invented about the ſame time with the anagram, though it is impoſſible to decide whether the inventor of one or the other were the greater blockhead. The ſimple acroſtic is nothing but the name or title of a perſon or thing made out of the initial letters of ſeveral verſes, and by that means written after the manner of the Chineſe, in a perpendicular line. But beſides theſe there are Compound acroſtics, when the principal letters ſtand two or three deep. I have ſeen ſome of them where the verſes have not only been edged by a name at each extremity, but have had the ſame name running down like a ſeam through the middle of the poem.

There is another near relation of the anagrams and acroſtics, which is commonly called a chronogram. This kind of wit appears very often on many modern medals, eſpecially thoſe of Germany, when they repreſent in the inſcription the year in which they were coined. Thus we ſee on a medal of Guſtavus Adolphus the following words —'CHRISTVS DUX ERGO TRIVMPHVS.' If you take the pains to pick the figures out of the ſeveral words, and range them in their preſent order, you will find they amount to MDCXVVVII, or 1627, the year in which the medal was ſtamped; for as ſome of the letters diſtinguiſh themſelves from the reſt, and over-top their fellows, they are to be conſidered in a double capacity, both as letters and as figures. Your laborious German wits will turn over a whole dictionary for one of theſe ingenious devices. A man would think they were ſearching after an apt claſſical term, but inſtead of that they are looking out a word that has an L, an M, or a D in it. When, therefore, we meet with any of theſe inſcriptions, we are not ſo much to look in them for the thought, as for the year of the Lord.

The Bouts Rimez were the favourites of the French nation for a whole age together, and that at a time when it abounded in wit and learning. They were a liſt of words that rhyme to one another, drawn up by another hand, and given to a poet, who was to make a poem to the rhymes in the ſame order that they were placed upon the liſt; the more uncommon the rhymes were, the more extraordinary was the genius of the poet that could accommodate his verſes to them. I do not know any greater inſtance of the decay of wit and learning among the French, which generally follows the declenſion of empire, than the endeavouring to reſtore this fooliſh kind of wit. If the reader will be at the trouble to ſee examples of it, let him look into the new Mercure Galant; where the author every month gives a liſt of rhymes to be filled up by the ingenious, in order to be communicated to the public in the Mercure for the ſucceeding month. That for the month of November laſt, which now lies before me, is as follows.

\- - - - - - - - - *Lauriers*
\- - - - - - - - - *Guerriers*
\- - - - - - - - - *Muſette*
\- - - - - - - - - *Liſette*

\- - - - - - - - - *Ceſars*
\- - - - - - - - - *Etendars*
\- - - - - - - - - *Houlette*
\- - - - - - - - - *Folette*

One would be amazed to ſee ſo learned a man as Menage talking ſeriouſly on this kind of trifle in the following paſſage—

'Monſieur de la Chambre has told 'me that he never knew what he was 'going to write when he took his pen 'into his hand; but that one ſentence 'always produced another. For my 'own part, I never knew what I ſhould 'write next when I was making verſes. 'In the firſt place I got all my rhymes 'together, and was afterwards perhaps 'three or four months in filling them 'up. I one day ſhewed Monſieur 'Gombaud a compoſition of this nature, in which among others I had 'made uſe of the four following rhymes, 'Amaryllis, Phillis, Marne, Arne, 'deſiring him to give me his opinion 'of it. He told me immediately, that 'my verſes were good for nothing. 'And upon my aſking his reaſon, he 'ſaid, becauſe the rhymes are too common; and for that reaſon eaſy to be

'put

'put into verſe. "Marry," ſays I, 'if it be ſo, I am very well rewarded "for all the pains I have been at." 'But by Monſieur Gombaud's leave, 'notwithſtanding the ſeverity of the 'criticiſm, the verſes were good.' Vid. MENAGIANA. Thus far the learned Menage, whom I have tranſlated word for word.

The firſt occaſion of theſe Bouts-Rimez made them in ſome manner excuſable, as they were taſks which the French ladies uſed to impoſe on their lovers. But when a grave author, like him above-mentioned, taſked himſelf, could there be any thing more ridiculous? Or would not one be apt to believe that the author played booty, and did not make his liſt of rhymes till he had finiſhed his poem.

I ſhall only add, that this piece of falſe wit has been finely ridiculed by Monſieur Saraſin, in a poem intituled, 'La Defaite des Bouts-Rimez—The 'Rout of the Bouts-Rimez.'

I muſt ſubjoin to this laſt kind of wit the double rhymes, which are uſed in doggerel poetry, and generally applauded by ignorant readers. If the thought of the couplet in ſuch compoſitions is good, the rhyme adds little to it; and if bad, it will not be in the power of the rhyme to recommend it. I am afraid that great numbers of thoſe who admire the incomparable Hudibras, do it more on account of theſe doggerel rhymes, than of the parts that really deſerve admiration. I am ſure I have heard the

Pulpit, drum eccleſiaſtic,
Was beat with fiſt inſtead of a ſtick—

and

There was an ancient ſage philoſopher
Who had read Alexander Roſs over—

more frequently quoted, than the fineſt pieces of wit in the whole poem.

C

N° LXI. THURSDAY, MAY 10.

NON EQUIDEM STUDEO, BULLATIS UT MIHI NUGIS
PAGINA TURGESCAT, DARE PONDUS IDONEA FUMO.
PERS. SAT. v. 19.

'TIS NOT INDEED MY TALENT TO ENGAGE
IN LOFTY TRIFLES, OR TO SWELL MY PAGE
WITH WIND AND NOISE. DRYDEN.

THERE is no kind of falſe wit which has been ſo recommended by the practice of all ages, as that which conſiſts in a jingle of words, and is comprehended under the general name of Punning. It is indeed impoſſible to kill a weed, which the ſoil has a natural diſpoſition to produce. The ſeeds of punning are in the minds of all men; and though they may be ſubdued by reaſon, reflection, and good ſenſe, they will be very apt to ſhoot up in the greateſt genius that is not broken and cultivated by the rules of art. Imitation is natural to us, and when it does not raiſe the mind to poetry, painting, muſic, or other more noble arts, it often breaks out in puns and quibbles.

Ariſtotle, in his eleventh chapter of his book of Rhetoric, deſcribes two or three kinds of Puns, which he calls Paragrams, among the beauties of good writing, and produces inſtances of them out of ſome of the greateſt authors in the Greek tongue. Cicero has ſprinkled ſeveral of his works with Puns, and in his book, where he lays down the rules of oratory, quotes abundance of ſayings as pieces of wit, which alſo upon examination prove arrant Puns, But the age in which the Pun chiefly flouriſhed, was the reign of King James the Firſt. That learned monarch was himſelf a tolerable Punſter, and made very few biſhops and privy-counſellors that had not ſome time or other ſignalized themſelves by a clinch, or a conundrum. It was therefore in this age that the Pun appeared with pomp and dignity. It had before been admitted into merry ſpeeches and ludicrous compoſitions, but was now delivered with great gravity from the pulpit, or pronounced in the moſt ſolemn manner at the council-table. The greateſt authors, in their moſt ſerious works, made frequent uſe of Puns. The ſermons of Biſhop Andrews, and the tragedies of Shake-

ſpeare, are full of them. The ſinner was punned into repentance by the former; as in the latter nothing is more uſual than to ſee an hero weeping and quibbling for a dozen lines together.

I muſt add to theſe great authorities, which ſeem to have given a kind of ſanction to this piece of falſe wit, that all the writers of rhetoric have treated of Punning with very great reſpect, and divided the ſeveral kinds of it into hard names, that are reckoned among the figures of ſpeech, and recommended as ornaments in diſcourſe. I remember a country ſchoolmaſter of my acquaintance told me once, that he had been in company with a gentleman whom he looked upon to be the greateſt Paragrammatiſt among the moderns. Upon inquiry, I found my learned friend had dined that day with Mr. Swan, the famous Punſter; and deſiring him to give me ſome account of Mr. Swan's converſation, he told me that he generally talked in the Paranomaſia, that he ſometimes gave into the Plocè, but that in his humble opinion he ſhined moſt in the Antanaclaſis.

I muſt not here omit, that a famous univerſity of this land was formerly very much infeſted with Puns, but whether or no this might not ariſe from the fens and marſhes in which it was ſituated, and which are now drained, I muſt leave to the determination of more ſkilful naturaliſts.

After this ſhort hiſtory of Punning, one would wonder how it ſhould be ſo entirely baniſhed out of the learned world as it is at preſent; eſpecially ſince it had found a place in the writings of the moſt ancient polite authors. To account for this we muſt conſider, that the firſt race of authors, who were the great heroes in writing, were deſtitute of all rules and arts of criticiſm; and for that reaſon, though they excel later writers in greatneſs of genius, they fall ſhort of them in accuracy and correctneſs. The moderns cannot reach their beauties, but can avoid their imperfections. When the world was furniſhed with theſe authors of the firſt eminence, there grew up another ſet of writers, who gained themſelves a reputation by the remarks which they made on the works of thoſe who preceded them. It was one of the employments of theſe ſecondary authors to diſtinguiſh the ſeveral kinds of wit by terms of art, and to conſider them as more or leſs perfect, according as they were founded in truth. It is no wonder, therefore, that even ſuch authors as Iſocrates, Plato, and Cicero, ſhould have ſuch little blemiſhes as are not to be met with in authors of a much inferior character, who have written ſince thoſe ſeveral blemiſhes were diſcovered. I do not find that there was a proper ſeparation made between Puns and true wit by any of the ancient authors, except Quintilian and Longinus. But when this diſtinction was once ſettled, it was very natural for all men of ſenſe to agree in it. As for the revival of this falſe wit, it happened about the time of the revival of letters; but as ſoon as it was once detected, it immediately vaniſhed and diſappeared. At the ſame time there is no queſtion but as it has ſunk in one age and roſe in another, it will again recover itſelf in ſome diſtant period of time, as pedantry and ignorance ſhall prevail upon wit and ſenſe. And, to ſpeak the truth, I do very much apprehend, by ſome of the laſt winter's productions, which had their ſets of admirers, that our poſterity will in a few years degenerate into a race of Punſters; at leaſt, a man may be very excuſable for any apprehenſions of this kind, that has ſeen Acroſtics handed about the town with great ſecreſy and applauſe; to which I muſt alſo add a little epigram called the Witches Prayer, that fell into verſe when it was read either backward or forward, excepting only that it curſed one way and bleſſed the other. When one ſees there are actually ſuch pains-takers among our Britiſh wits, who can tell what it may end in? If we muſt laſh one another, let it be with the manly ſtrokes of wit and ſatire; for I am of the old philoſopher's opinion, that if I muſt ſuffer from one or the other, I would rather it ſhould be from the paw of a lion than the hoof of an aſs. I do not ſpeak this out of any ſpirit of party. There is a moſt crying dulneſs on both ſides. I have ſeen Tory Acroſtics and Whig Anagrams, and do not quarrel with either of them, becauſe they are Whigs or Tories, but becauſe they are Anagrams and Acroſtics.

But to return to Punning. Having purſued the hiſtory of a Pun, from it's original to it's downfal, I ſhall here define it to be a conceit ariſing from the uſe of two words that agree in the ſound but differ in the ſenſe. The only way, therefore,

therefore, to try a piece of wit, is to tranſlate it into a different language; if it bears the teſt, you may pronounce it true; but if it vaniſhes in the experiment, you may conclude it to have been a Pun. In ſhort, one may ſay of a Pun, as the countryman deſcribed his nightingale, that it is *vox et præterea nihil*, a ſound, and nothing but a ſound.

On the contrary, one may repreſent true wit by the deſcription which Ariſtenetus makes of a fine woman; when ſhe is dreſſed ſhe is beautiful, when ſhe is undreſſed ſhe is beautiful; or as Mercerus has tranſlated it more emphatically—*Induitur, formoſa eſt; exuitur, ipſa forma eſt.*

C

N° LXII. FRIDAY, MAY 11.

SCRIBENDI RECTÈ SAPERE EST ET PRINCIPIUM ET FONS.
HOR. ARS POET. VER. 309.

SOUND JUDGMENT IS THE GROUND OF WRITING WELL.
ROSCOMMON.

MR. Locke has an admirable reflection upon the difference of wit and judgment, whereby he endeavours to ſhew the reaſon why they are not always the talents of the ſame perſon. His words are as follow: 'And 'hence, perhaps, may be given ſome 'reaſon of that common obſervation, 'that men who have a great deal of wit 'and prompt memories, have not al'ways the cleareſt judgment or deepeſt 'reaſon. For wit lying moſt in the aſ'ſemblage of ideas, and putting thoſe 'together with quickneſs and variety, 'wherein can be found any reſemblance 'or congruity, thereby to make up 'pleaſant pictures and agreeable viſions 'in the fancy; judgment, on the con'trary, lies quite on the other ſide, in 'ſeparating carefully one from another, 'ideas wherein can be found the leaſt 'difference, thereby to avoid being miſ'led by ſimilitude, and by affinity to 'take one thing for another. This is 'a way of proceeding quite contrary to 'metaphor and alluſion; therein, for 'the moſt part, lies that entertainment 'and pleaſantry of wit which ſtrikes ſo 'lively on the fancy, and is therefore 'ſo acceptable to all people.'

This is, I think, the beſt and moſt philoſophical account that I ever met with of wit, which generally, though not always, conſiſts in ſuch a reſemblance and congruity of ideas as this author mentions. I ſhall only add to it, by way of explanation, that every reſemblance of ideas is not that which we call wit, unleſs it be ſuch an one that gives delight and ſurpriſe to the reader: theſe two properties ſeem eſſential to wit, more particularly the laſt of them. In order, therefore, that the reſemblance in the ideas be wit, it is neceſſary that the ideas ſhould not lie too near one another in the nature of things; for where the likeneſs is obvious, it gives no ſurpriſe. To compare one man's ſinging to that of another, or to repreſent the whiteneſs of any object by that of milk and ſnow, or the variety of it's colours by thoſe of the rainbow, cannot be called wit, unleſs, beſides this obvious reſemblance, there be ſome further congruity diſcovered in the two ideas that is capable of giving the reader ſome ſurpriſe. Thus when a poet tells us, the boſom of his miſtreſs is as white as ſnow, there is no wit in the compariſon: but when he adds, with a ſigh, that it is as cold too, it then grows into wit. Every reader's memory may ſupply him with innumerable inſtances of the ſame nature. For this reaſon the ſimilitudes in heroic poets, who endeavour rather to fill the mind with great conceptions, than to divert it with ſuch as are new and ſurpriſing, have ſeldom any thing in them that can be called wit. Mr. Locke's account of wit, with this ſhort explanation, comprehends moſt of the ſpecies of wit, as metaphors, ſimilitudes, allegories, ænigmas, mottos, parables, fables, dreams, viſions, dramatic writings, burleſques, and all the methods of alluſion: as there are many other pieces of wit, how remote ſoever they may appear at firſt ſight from the foregoing deſcription, which upon examination will be found to agree with it.

As true wit generally conſiſts in this reſemblance and congruity of ideas, falſe wit chiefly conſiſts in the reſemblance and congruity ſometimes of ſingle letters,

ters, as in anagrams, chronograms, lipograms, and acroſtics; ſometimes of ſyllables, as in echos and doggerel rhymes: ſometimes of words, as in puns, and quibbles; and ſometimes of whole ſentences or poems, caſt into the figure of eggs, axes, or altars: nay, ſome carry the notion of wit ſo far, as to aſcribe it even to external mimicry; and to look upon a man as an ingenious perſon, that can reſemble the tone, poſture, or face of another.

As true wit conſiſts in the reſemblance of ideas, and falſe wit in the reſemblance of words, according to the foregoing inſtances: there is another kind of wit which conſiſts partly in the reſemblance of ideas, and partly in the reſemblance of words, which for diſtinction's ſake I ſhall call mixt wit. This kind of wit is that which abounds in Cowley, more than in any author that ever wrote. Mr. Waller has likewiſe a great deal of it. Mr. Dryden is very ſparing in it. Milton had a genius much above it. Spenſer is in the ſame claſs with Milton. The Italians, even in their epic poetry, are full of it. Monſieur Boileau, who formed himſelf upon the ancient poets, has every where rejected it with ſcorn. If we look after mixt wit among the Greek writers, we ſhall find it no where but in the epigrammatiſts. There are indeed ſome ſtrokes of it in the little poem aſcribed to Muſæus, which by that, as well as many other marks, betrays itſelf to be a modern compoſition. If we look into the Latin writers, we find none of this mixed wit in Virgil, Lucretius, or Catullus; very little in Horace; but a great deal of it in Ovid; and ſcarce any thing elſe in Martial.

Out of the innumerable branches of mixt wit, I ſhall chooſe one inſtance which may be met with in all the writers of this claſs. The paſſion of love in it's nature has been thought to reſemble fire; for which reaſon the words Fire and Flame are made uſe of to ſignify Love. The witty poets therefore have taken an advantage from the doubtful meaning of the word Fire, to make an infinite number of witticiſms. Cowley obſerving the cold regard of his miſtreſs's eyes, and at the ſame time their power of producing love in him, conſiders them as burning-glaſſes made of ice; and finding himſelf able to live in the greateſt extremities of love, concludes the Torrid Zone to be habitable. When his miſtreſs had read his letter written in juice of lemon by holding it to the fire; he deſires her to read it over again by Love's flames. When ſhe weeps, he wiſhes it were inward heat that diſtilled thoſe drops from the limbec. When ſhe is abſent, he is beyond eighty, that is, thirty degrees nearer the pole that when ſhe is with him. His ambitious love is a fire that naturally mounts upwards; his happy love is the beams of heaven, and his unhappy love flames of hell. When it does not let him ſleep, it is a flame that ſends up no ſmoke; when it is oppoſed by counſel and advice, it is a fire that rages the more by the winds blowing upon it. Upon the dying of a tree in which he had cut his loves, he obſerves that his written flames had burnt up and withered the tree. When he reſolves to give over his paſſion, he tells us that one burnt like him for ever dreads the fire. His heart is an Ætna, that inſtead of Vulcan's ſhop, incloſes Cupid's forge in it. His endeavouring to drown his love in wine, is throwing oil upon the fire. He would inſinuate to his miſtreſs, that the fire of love, like that of the ſun which produces ſo many living creatures, ſhould not only warm but beget. Love in another place cooks pleaſure at his fire. Sometimes the poet's heart is frozen in every breaſt, and ſometimes ſcorched in every eye. Sometimes he is drowned in tears, and burnt in love, like a ſhip ſet on fire in the middle of the ſea.

The reader may obſerve, in every one of theſe inſtances, that the poet mixes the qualities of fire with thoſe of love; and in the ſame ſentence ſpeaking of it both as a paſſion and as real fire, ſurpriſes the reader with thoſe ſeeming reſemblances or contradictions that make up all the wit in this kind of writing. Mixt wit therefore is a compoſition of pun and true wit, and is more or leſs perfect as the reſemblance lies in the ideas or in the words: it's foundations are laid partly in falſehood, and partly in truth: reaſon puts in her claim for one half of it, and extravagance for the other. The only province therefore for this kind of wit, is epigram, or thoſe little occaſional poems that in their own nature are nothing elſe but a tiſſue of epigrams. I cannot conclude this head of mixt wit, without owning that the admirable poet, out of whom I have

taken

taken the examples of it, had as much true wit as any author that ever writ; and indeed all other talents of an extraordinary genius.

It may be expected, since I am upon this subject, that I should take notice of Mr. Dryden's definition of wit; which, with all the deference that is due to the judgment of so great a man, is not so properly a definition of wit, as of good writing in general. Wit, as he defines it, is 'a propriety of words and thoughts 'adapted to the subject.' If this be a true definition of wit, I am apt to think that Euclid was the greatest wit that ever set pen to paper: it is certain there never was a greater propriety of words and thoughts adapted to the subject, than what that author has made use of in his elements. I shall only appeal to my reader, if this definition agrees with any notion he has of wit: if it be a true one, I am sure Mr. Dryden was not only a better poet, but a greater wit, than Mr. Cowley; and Virgil a much more facetious man than either Ovid or Martial.

Bouhours, whom I look upon to be the most penetrating of all the French critics, has taken pains to shew, that it is impossible for any thought to be beautiful which is not just, and has not it's foundation in the nature of things; that the basis of all wit is truth; and that no thought can be valuable, of which good sense is not the ground-work. Boileau has endeavoured to inculcate the same notion in several parts of his writings, both in prose and verse. This is that natural way of writing, that beautiful simplicity, which we so much admire in the compositions of the ancients: and which nobody deviates from, but those who want strength of genius to make a thought shine in it's own natural beauties. Poets who want this strength of genius to give that majestic simplicity to nature, which we so much admire in the works of the ancients, are forced to hunt after foreign ornaments, and not to let any piece of wit of what kind soever escape them. I look upon these writers as Goths in poetry, who, like those in architecture, not being able to come up to the beautiful simplicity of the old Greeks and Romans, have endeavoured to supply it's place with all the extravagances of an irregular fancy. Mr. Dryden makes a very handsome observation on Ovid's writing a letter from Dido to Æneas, in the following words. 'Ovid,' says he, speaking of Virgil's fiction of Dido and Æneas, 'takes it 'up after him, even in the same age, 'and makes an ancient heroine of Virgil's new-created Dido; dictates a letter for her just before her death to the 'ungrateful fugitive; and very unluckily for himself, is for measuring a sword 'with a man so much superior in force 'to him on the same subject. I think 'I may be judge of this, because I have 'translated both. The famous author 'of the Art of Love has nothing of his 'own: he borrows all from a greater 'master in his own profession, and, 'which is worse, improves nothing 'which he finds: nature fails him, and 'being forced to his old shift, he has recourse to witticism. This passes indeed 'with his soft admirers, and gives him 'the preference to Virgil in their esteem.'

Were not I supported by so great an authority as that of Mr. Dryden, I should not venture to observe, that the taste of most of our English poets, as well as readers, is extremely Gothic. He quotes Monsieur Segrais for a threefold distinction of the readers of poetry: in the first of which he comprehends the rabble of readers, whom he does not treat as such with regard to their quality, but to their numbers and the coarseness of their taste. His words are as follow: 'Segrais has distinguished the 'readers of poetry, according to their 'capacity of judging, into three classes. '[He might have said the same of writers too, if he had pleased.] In the 'lowest form he places those whom he 'calls Les Petits Esprits, such things 'as our upper-gallery audience in a 'play-house; who like nothing but the 'husk and rhind of wit, prefer a quibble, a conceit, an epigram, before solid sense and elegant expression: these 'are mob-readers. If Virgil and Martial stood for parliament-men, we 'know already who would carry it. 'But though they make the greatest appearance in the field, and cry the 'loudest, the best on't is, they are but a 'sort of French huguenots, or Dutch 'boors, brought over in herds, but not 'naturalized; who have not lands of 'two pounds per annum in Parnassus, 'and therefore are not privileged to 'poll. Their authors are of the same 'level, fit to represent them on a mountebank's stage, or to be masters of the 'ceremonies in a bear-garden: yet these

'are

'are they who have the moſt admirers. 'But it often happens, to their mortification, that as their readers improve 'their ſtock of ſenſe, as they may by 'reading better books, and by converſation with men of judgment, they 'ſoon forſake them.'

I muſt not diſmiſs this ſubject without obſerving, that as Mr. Locke in the paſſage above-mentioned has diſcovered the moſt fruitful ſource of wit, ſo there is another of a quite contrary nature to it, which does likewiſe branch itſelf out into ſeveral kinds. For not only the reſemblance, but the oppoſition of ideas, does very often produce wit; as I could ſhew in ſeveral little points, turns, and anitheſes; that I may poſſibly enlarge upon in ſome future ſpeculation. C

N° LXIII. SATURDAY, MAY 12.

HUMANO CAPITI CERVICEM PICTOR EQUINAM
JUNGERE SI VELIT, ET VARIAS INDUCERE PLUMAS,
UNDIQUE COLLATIS MEMBRIS, UT TURPITER ATRUM
DESINAT IN PISCEM MULIER FORMOSA SUPERNE:
SPECTATUM ADMISSI RISUM TENEATIS AMICI?
CREDITE, PISONES, ISTI TABULÆ FORE LIBRUM
PERSIMILEM, CUJUS, VELUT ÆGRI SOMNIA, VANÆ
FINGUNTUR SPECIES——

HOR. ARS POET. VER. I.

IF IN A PICTURE, PISO, YOU SHOULD SEE
A HANDSOME WOMAN WITH A FISH'S TAIL,
OR A MAN'S HEAD UPON A HORSE'S NECK,
OR LIMBS OF BEASTS, OR THE MOST DIFFERENT KINDS,
COVER'D WITH FEATHERS OF ALL SORTS OF BIRDS:
WOU'D YOU NOT LAUGH, AND THINK THE PAINTER MAD?
TRUST ME THAT BOOK IS AS RIDICULOUS,
WHOSE INCOHERENT STYLE, LIKE SICK MENS DREAMS,
VARIES ALL SHAPES, AND MIXES ALL EXTREMES.

ROSCOMMON.

IT is very hard for the mind to diſengage itſelf from a ſubject in which it has been long employed. The thoughts will be riſing of themſelves from time to time, though we give them no encouragement; as the tollings and fluctuations of the ſea continue ſeveral hours after the winds are laid.

It is to this that I impute my laſt night's dream or viſion, which formed into one continued allegory the ſeveral ſchemes of wit, whether falſe, mixed, or true, that have been the ſubject of my late papers.

Methought I was tranſported into a country that was filled with prodigies and enchantments, governed by the goddeſs of Falſhood, and intitled The Region of Falſe Wit. There was nothing in the fields, the woods, and the rivers, that appeared natural. Several of the trees bloſſomed in leaf-gold, ſome of them produced bone-lace, and ſome of them precious ſtones. The fountains bubbled in an opera tune, and were filled with ſtags, wild-boars, and mermaids, that lived among the waters; at the ſame time that dolphins and ſeveral kinds of fiſh played upon the banks or took their paſtime in the meadows. The birds had many of them golden beaks, and human voices. The flowers perfumed the air with ſmells of incenſe, amber-greaſe, and pulvillios; and were ſo interwoven with one another, that they grew up in pieces of embroidery. The winds were filled with ſighs and meſſages of diſtant lovers. As I was walking to and fro in this enchanted wilderneſs, I could not forbear breaking out into ſoliloquies upon the ſeveral wonders which lay before me, when to my great ſurpriſe I found there were artificial echoes in every walk, that, by repetitions of certain words which I ſpoke, agreed with me, or contradicted me, in every thing I ſaid. In the midſt of my converſation with theſe inviſible companions, I diſcovered in the centre of a very dark grove a monſtrous fabric built after the Gothic manner, and covered with innumerable devices in that barbarous kind of ſculpture. I immediately went up to it, and found it to be

be a kind of heathen temple conſecrated to the god of Dulneſs. Upon my entrance I ſaw the deity of the place dreſſed in the habit of a monk, with a book in one hand and a rattle in the other. Upon his right hand was Induſtry, with a lamp burning before her; and on his left Caprice, with a monkey ſitting on her ſhoulder. Before his feet there ſtood an altar of a very odd make, which, as I afterwards found, was ſhaped in that manner to comply with the inſcription that ſurrounded it. Upon the altar there lay ſeveral offerings of axes, wings, and eggs, cut in paper, and inſcribed with verſes. The temple was filled with votaries, who applied themſelves to different diverſions, as their fancies directed them. In one part of it I ſaw a regiment of Anagrams, who were continually in motion, turning to the right or to the left, facing about, doubling their ranks, ſhifting their ſtations, and throwing themſelves into all the figures and countermarches of the moſt changeable and perplexed exerciſe.

Not far from theſe was a body of Acroſtics, made up of very diſproportioned perſons. It was diſpoſed into three columns, the officers planting themſelves in a line on the left-hand of each column. The officers were all of them at leaſt ſix feet high, and made three rows of very proper men; but the common ſoldiers, who filled up the ſpaces between the officers, were ſuch dwarfs, cripples, and ſcarecrows, that one could hardly look upon them without laughing. There were behind the Acroſtics two or three files of Chronograms, which differed only from the former, as their officers were equipped, like the figure of Time, with an hour-glaſs in one hand, and a ſcythe in the other, and took their poſts promiſcuouſly among the private men whom they commanded.

In the body of the temple, and before the very face of the deity, methought I ſaw the phantom of Tryphiodorus the Lipogrammatiſt, engaged in a ball with four-and-twenty perſons, who purſued him by turns through all the intricacies and labyrinths of a country dance, without being able to overtake him.

Obſerving ſeveral to be very buſy at the weſtern end of the temple, I inquired into what they were doing, and found there was in that quarter the great magazine of Rebuſes. There were ſeveral things of the moſt different natures tied up in bundles, and thrown upon one another in heaps like faggots. You might behold an anchor, a night-rail, and a hobby-horſe, bound up together. One of the workmen ſeeing me very much ſurpriſed, told me, there was an infinite deal of wit in ſeveral of thoſe bundles, and that he would explain them to me if I pleaſed. I thanked him for his civility, but told him I was in very great haſte at that time. As I was going out of the temple, I obſerved in one corner of it a cluſter of men and women laughing very heartily, and diverting themſelves at a game of Crambo. I heard ſeveral Double Rhymes as I paſſed by them, which raiſed a great deal of mirth.

Not far from theſe was another ſet of merry people engaged at a diverſion, in which the whole jeſt was to miſtake one perſon for another. To give occaſion for theſe ludicrous miſtakes, they were divided into pairs, every pair being covered from head to foot with the ſame kind of dreſs, though perhaps there was not the leaſt reſemblance in their faces. By this means an old man was ſometimes miſtaken for a boy, a woman for a man, and a black-a-moor for an European, which very often produced great peals of laughter. Theſe I gueſſed to be a party of Puns. But being very deſirous to get out of this world of magic, which had almoſt turned my brain, I left the temple, and croſſed over the fields that lay about it with all the ſpeed I could make. I was not gone far before I heard the ſound of trumpets and alarms, which ſeemed to proclaim the march of an enemy; and, as I afterwards found, was in reality what I apprehended it. There appeared at a great diſtance a very ſhining light, and, in the midſt of it, a perſon of a moſt beautiful aſpect; her name was Truth. On her right-hand there marched a male deity, who bore ſeveral quivers on his ſhoulders, and graſped ſeveral arrows in his hand; his name was Wit. The approach of theſe two enemies filled all the territories of Falſe Wit with an unſpeakable conſternation, inſomuch that the goddeſs of thoſe regions appeared in perſon upon her frontiers, with the ſeveral inferior deities, and the different bodies of forces which I had before ſeen in the temple, who were now drawn up in array, and prepared to give their foes a warm reception. As the march

of

of the enemy was very ſlow, it gave time to the ſeveral inhabitants who bordered upon the regions of Falſhood to draw their forces into a body, with a deſign to ſtand upon their guard as neuters, and attend the iſſue of the combat.

I muſt here inform my reader, that the frontiers of the enchanted region, which I have before deſcribed, were inhabited by the ſpecies of Mixed Wit, who made a very odd appearance when they were muſtered together in an army. There were men whoſe bodies were ſtuck full of darts, and women whoſe eyes were burning-glaſſes; men that had hearts of fire, and women that had breaſts of ſnow. It would be endleſs to deſcribe ſeveral monſters of the like nature, that compoſe this great army; which immediately fell aſunder and divided itſelf into two parts, the one half throwing themſelves behind the banners of Truth, and the others behind thoſe of Falſhood.

The goddeſs of Falſhood was of a gigantic ſtature, and advanced ſome paces before the front of her army; but as the dazzling light, which flowed from Truth, began to ſhine upon her, ſhe faded inſenſibly; inſomuch that in a little ſpace ſhe looked rather like an huge phantom than a real ſubſtance. At length, as the goddeſs of Truth approached ſtill nearer to her, ſhe fell away intirely, and vaniſhed amidſt the brightneſs of her preſence; ſo that there did not remain the leaſt trace or impreſſion of her figure in the place where ſhe had been ſeen.

As at the riſing of the ſun the conſtellations grow thin, and the ſtars go out one after another, till the whole hemiſphere is extinguiſhed; ſuch was the vaniſhing of the goddeſs: and not only of the goddeſs herſelf, but of the whole army that attended her, which ſympathized with their leader, and ſhrunk into nothing, in proportion as the goddeſs diſappeared. At the ſame time the whole temple ſunk, the fiſh betook themſelves to the ſtreams, and the wild beaſts to the woods; the fountains recovered their murmurs, the birds their voices, the trees their leaves, the flowers their ſcents, and the whole face of nature it's true and genuine appearance. Though I ſtill continued aſleep, I fancied myſelf as it were awakened out of a dream, when I ſaw this region of prodigies reſtored to woods and rivers, fields and meadows.

Upon the removal of that wild ſcene of wonders, which had very much diſturbed my imagination, I took a full ſurvey of the perſons of Wit and Truth; for indeed it was impoſſible to look upon the firſt without ſeeing the other at the ſame time. There was behind them a ſtrong and compact body of figures. The genius of Heroic Poetry appeared with a ſword in her hand, and a laurel on her head. Tragedy was crowned with cypreſs, and covered with robes dipped in blood. Satire had ſmiles in her look, and a dagger under her garment. Rhetoric was known by her thunderbolt, and Comedy by her maſk. After ſeveral other figures, Epigram marched up in the rear, who had been poſted there at the beginning of the expedition, that he might not revolt to the enemy, whom he was ſuſpected to favour in his heart. I was very much awed and delighted with the appearance of the god of Wit; there was ſomething ſo amiable and yet ſo piercing in his looks, as inſpired me at once with love and terror. As I was gazing on him, to my unſpeakable joy, he took a quiver of arrows from his ſhoulder, in order to make me a preſent of it; but as I was reaching out my hand to receive it of him, I knocked it againſt a chair, and by that means awaked. C

N° LXIV. MONDAY, MAY 14.

——HIC VIVIMUS AMBITIOSA
PAUPERTATE OMNES.—— JUV. SAT. III. 183.

THE FACE OF WEALTH IN POVERTY WE WEAR.

THE moſt improper things we commit in the conduct of our lives, we are led into by the force of faſhion. Inſtances might be given, in which a prevailing cuſtom makes us act againſt the rules of nature, law, and common ſenſe; but at preſent I ſhall confine my conſideration of the effect it has upon men's minds, by looking into our behaviour when it is the faſhion to go into mourning.

ing. The cuſtom of repreſenting the grief we have for the loſs of the dead by our habits, certainly had it's riſe from the real ſorrow of ſuch as were too much diſtreſſed to take the proper care they ought of their dreſs. By degrees it prevailed, that ſuch as had this inward oppreſſion upon their minds, made an apology for not joining with the reſt of the world in their ordinary diverſions by a dreſs ſuited to their condition. This therefore was at firſt aſſumed by ſuch only as were under real diſtreſs; to whom it was a relief that they had nothing about them ſo light and gay as to be irkſome to the gloom and melancholy of their inward reflections, or that might miſrepreſent them to others. In proceſs of time this laudable diſtinction of the ſorrowful was loſt, and mourning is now worn by heirs and widows. You ſee nothing but magnificence and ſolemnity in the equipage of the relict, and an air of releaſe from ſervitude in the pomp of a ſon who has loſt a wealthy father. This faſhion of ſorrow is now become a generous part of the ceremonial between princes and ſovereigns, who in the language of all nations are ſtiled brothers to each other, and put on the purple upon the death of any potentate with whom they live in amity. Courtiers, and all who wiſh themſelves ſuch, are immediately ſeized with grief from head to foot upon this diſaſter to their prince; ſo that one may know, by the very buckles of a gentleman-uſher, what degree of friendſhip any deceaſed monarch maintained with the court to which he belongs. A good courtier's habit and behaviour is hieroglyphical on theſe occaſions; he deals much in whiſpers, and you may ſee he dreſſes according to the beſt intelligence.

The general affectation among men, of appearing greater than they are, makes the whole world run into the habit of the court. You ſee the lady, who the day before was as various as a rainbow, upon the time appointed for beginning to mourn, as dark as a cloud. This humour does not prevail only on thoſe whoſe fortunes can ſupport any change in their equipage, not on thoſe only whoſe incomes demand the wantonneſs of new appearances; but on ſuch alſo who have juſt enough to clothe them. An old acquaintance of mine, of ninety pounds a year, who has naturally the vanity of being a man of faſhion deep at his heart, is very much put to it to bear the mortality of princes. He made a new black ſuit upon the death of the King of Spain, he turned it for the King of Portugal, and he now keeps his chamber while it is ſcouring for the Emperor. He is a good œconomiſt in his extravagance, and makes only a freſh black button upon his iron-grey ſuit for any potentate of ſmall territories; he indeed adds his crape hat-band for a prince whoſe exploits he has admired in the Gazette. But whatever compliments may be made on theſe occaſions, the true mourners are the mercers, ſilkmen, lacemen, and milliners. A prince of a merciful and royal diſpoſition, would reflect with great anxiety upon the proſpect of his death, if he conſidered what numbers would be reduced to miſery by that accident only; he would think it of moment enough to direct, that in the notification of his departure, the honour done to him might be reſtrained to thoſe of the houſhold of the prince to whom it ſhould be ſignified. He would think a general mourning to be in a leſs degree the ſame ceremony which is practiſed in barbarous nations, of killing their ſlaves to attend the obſequies of their kings.

I had been wonderfully at a loſs for many months together, to gueſs at the character of a man who came now and then to our coffee-houſe; he ever ended a newſpaper with this reflection: 'Well, 'I ſee all the foreign princes are in good 'health.' If you aſked—'Pray, Sir, 'what ſays the Poſtman from Vienna?' he anſwered—'Make us thankful, the 'German princes are all well'—'What 'does he ſay from Barcelona?'—'He 'does not ſpeak but that the country 'agrees very well with the new queen.' After very much inquiry, I found this man of univerſal loyalty was a wholeſale dealer in ſilks and ribbons: his way is, it ſeems, if he hires a weaver or workman, to have it inſerted in his articles —'That all this ſhall be well and truly 'performed, provided no foreign po-'tentate ſhall depart this life within the 'time above-mentioned.' It happens in all public mournings, that the many trades which depend upon our habits, are during that folly either pinched with preſent want, or terrified with the apparent approach of it. All the atonement which men can make for wanton expences, which is a ſort of inſulting the

ſcarcity under which others labour, is, that the ſuperfluities of the wealthy give ſupplies to the neceſſities of the poor; but inſtead of any other good ariſing from the affectation of being in courtly habits of mourning, all order ſeems to be deſtroyed by it; and the true honour, which one court does to another on that occaſion, loſes it's force and efficacy. When a foreign miniſter beholds the court of a nation, which flouriſhes in riches and plenty, lay aſide, upon the loſs of his maſter, all marks of ſplendor and magnificence, though the head of ſuch a joyful people, he will conceive a greater idea of the honour done his maſter, than when he ſees the generality of the people in the ſame habit. When one is afraid to aſk the wife of a tradeſman whom ſhe has loſt of her family; and after ſome preparation endeavours to know whom ſhe mourns for; how ridiculous is it to hear her explain herſelf, that we have loſt one of the houſe of Auſtria? Princes are elevated ſo highly above the reſt of mankind, that it is a preſumptuous diſtinction to take a part in honours done to their memories, except we have authority for it, by being related in a particular manner to the court which pays that veneration to their friendſhip, and ſeems to expreſs on ſuch an occaſion the ſenſe of the uncertainty of human life in general, by aſſuming the habit of ſorrow, though in the full poſſeſſion of triumph and royalty. R

N° LXV. TUESDAY, MAY 15.

——DEMETRI TEQUE TIGELLI
DISCIPULORUM INTER JUBEO PLORARE CATHEDRAS.
HOR. SAT. I. x. 90.

DEMETRIUS AND TIGELLIUS, KNOW YOUR PLACE;
GO HENCE, AND WHINE AMONG THE SCHOOL-BOY RACE.

AFTER having at large explained what wit is, and deſcribed the falſe appearances of it, all that labour ſeems but an uſeleſs enquiry, without ſome time be ſpent in conſidering the application of it. The ſeat of wit, when one ſpeaks as a man of the town and the world, is the playhouſe; I ſhall therefore fill this paper with reflections upon the uſe of it in that place. The application of wit in the theatre has as ſtrong an effect upon the manners of our gentlemen, as the taſte of it has upon the writings of our authors. It may, perhaps, looks like a very preſumptuous work, though not foreign from the duty of a Spectator, to tax the writings of ſuch as have long had the general applauſe of a nation; but I ſhall always make reaſon, truth, and nature, the meaſures of praiſe and diſpraiſe; if thoſe are for me, the generality of opinion is of no conſequence againſt me; if they are againſt me, the general opinion cannot long ſupport me.

Without further preface, I am going to look into ſome of our moſt applauded plays, and ſee whether they deſerve the figure they at preſent bear in the imaginations of men, or not.

In reflecting upon theſe works, I ſhall chiefly dwell upon that for which each reſpective play is moſt celebrated. The preſent paper ſhall be employed upon Sir Fopling Flutter. The received character of this play is, that it is the pattern of genteel comedy. Dorimant and Harriot are the characters of greateſt conſequence; and if theſe are low and mean, the reputation of the play is very unjuſt.

I will take it for granted, that a fine gentleman ſhould be honeſt in his actions, and refined in his language. Inſtead of this, our hero in this piece is a direct knave in his deſigns, and a clown in his language. Bellair is his admirer and friend; in return for which, becauſe he is forſooth a greater wit than his ſaid friend, he thinks it reaſonable to perſuade him to marry a young lady, whoſe virtue, he thinks, will laſt no longer than till ſhe is a wife, and then ſhe cannot but fall to his ſhare, as he is an irreſiſtible fine gentleman. The falſhood to Mrs. Loveit, and the barbarity of triumphing over her anguiſh for loſing him, is another inſtance of his honeſty, as well as his good-nature. As to his fine language, he calls the orange-woman, who it ſeems is inclined to grow fat, 'an overgrown jade, with 'a flaſket of guts before her;' and ſalutes

lutes her with a pretty phraſe of—'How 'now, double-tripe?' Upon the mention of a country gentlewoman, whom he knows nothing of, no one can imagine why, he 'will lay his life ſhe is 'ſome aukward ill-faſhioned country 'toad, who, not having above four 'dozen of hairs on her head, has adorned 'her baldneſs with a large white fruz, 'that ſhe may look ſparkiſhly in the 'fore-front of the king's box at an 'old play.' Unnatural mixture of ſenſeleſs common-place!

As to the generoſity of his temper, he tells his poor footman, if he did not wait better, he would turn him away, in the inſolent phraſe of—'I'll uncaſe 'you.'

Now for Mrs. Harriot; ſhe laughs at obedience to an abſent mother, whoſe tenderneſs Buſy deſcribes to be very exquiſite, for 'that ſhe is ſo pleaſed with 'finding Harriot again, that ſhe cannot 'chide her for being out of the way.' This witty daughter, and fine lady, has ſo little reſpect for this good woman, that ſhe ridicules her air in taking leave, and cries—'In what a ſtruggle is my 'poor mother yonder? See, ſee her 'head tottering, her eyes ſtaring, and 'her under-lip trembling.' But all this is atoned for, becauſe 'ſhe has 'more wit than is uſual in her ſex, 'and as much malice, though ſhe is 'as wild as you would wiſh her, and 'has a demureneſs in her looks that 'makes it ſo ſurpriſing!' Then to recommend her as a fit ſpouſe for his hero, the poet makes her ſpeak her ſenſe of marriage very ingeniouſly; 'I think,' ſays ſhe, 'I might be brought to en-'dure him, and that is all a reaſonable 'woman ſhould expect in an huſband.' It is, methinks, unnatural that we are not made to underſtand how ſhe that was bred under a ſilly pious old mother, that would never truſt her out of her ſight, came to be ſo polite.

It cannot be denied, but that the negligence of every thing, which engages the attention of the ſober and valuable part of mankind, appears very well drawn in this piece; but it is denied, that is neceſſary to the character of a fine gentleman, that he ſhould in that manner trample upon all order and decency. As for the character of Dorimant, it is more of a coxcomb than that of Fopling. He ſays of one of his companions, that a good correſpondence between them is their mutual intereſt. Speaking of that friend, he declares, their being much together 'makes the 'women think the better of his under-'ſtanding, and judge more favourably 'of my reputation. It makes him paſs 'upon ſome for a man of very good 'ſenſe, and me upon others for a very 'civil perſon.'

This whole celebrated piece is a perfect contradiction to good manners, good ſenſe, and common honeſty; and as there is nothing in it but what is built upon the ruin of virtue and innocence, according to the notion of merit in this comedy, I take the ſhoemaker to be, in reality, the fine gentleman of the play; for it ſeems he is an Atheiſt, if we may depend upon his character as given by the orange-woman, who is herſelf far from being the loweſt in the play. She ſays of a fine man, who is Dorimant's companion, 'there is not ſuch 'another heathen in the town, except the 'ſhoemaker.' His pretenſion to be the hero of the drama appears ſtill more in his own deſcription of his way of living with his lady. 'There is,' ſays he, 'never a man in town lives more like 'a gentleman with his wife than I do; 'I never mind her motions; ſhe never 'inquires into mine. We ſpeak to one 'another civilly, hate one another hear-'tily; and becauſe it is vulgar to lie and 'ſoak together, we have each of us our 'ſeveral ſettle-bed.' That of ſoaking together is as good as if Dorimant had ſpoken it himſelf; and, I think, ſince he puts human nature in as ugly a form, as the circumſtance will bear, and is a ſtaunch unbeliever, he is very much wronged in having no part of the good fortune beſtowed in the laſt act.

To ſpeak plainly of this whole work, I think nothing but being loſt to a ſenſe of innocence and virtue can make any one ſee this comedy, without obſerving more frequently occaſion to move ſorrow and indignation, than mirth and laughter. At the ſame time I allow it to be nature, but it is nature in it's utmoſt corruption and degeneracy. R

N° LXVI. WEDNESDAY, MAY 16.

MOTUS DOCERI GAUDET IONICOS
MATURA VIRGO, ET FINGITUR ARTUBUS
JAM NUNC, ET INCESTOS AMORES
DE TENERO MEDITATUR UNGUI.

HOR. OD. III. VI. 21.

BEHOLD A RIPE AND MELTING MAID
BOUND 'PRENTICE TO THE WANTON TRADE:
IONIAN ARTISTS, AT A MIGHTY PRICE,
INSTRUCT HER IN THE MYSTERIES OF VICE,
WHAT NETS TO SPREAD, WHERE SUBTLE BAITS TO LAY;
AND WITH AN EARLY HAND THEY FORM THE TEMPER'D CLAY.

ROSCOMMON.

THE two following letters are upon a ſubject of very great importance, though expreſſed without any air of gravity.

TO THE SPECTATOR.

SIR,

I Take the freedom of aſking your advice in behalf of a young country kinſwoman of mine who is lately come to town, and under my care for her education. She is very pretty, but you can't imagine how uninformed a creature it is. She comes to my hands juſt as nature left her, half-finiſhed, and without any acquired improvements. When I look on her I often think of the Belle Sauvage mentioned in one of your papers. Dear Mr. Spectator, help me to make her comprehend the viſible graces of ſpeech, and the dumb eloquence of motion; for ſhe is at preſent a perfect ſtranger to both. She knows no way to expreſs herſelf but by her tongue, and that always to ſignify her meaning. Her eyes ſerve her yet only to ſee with, and ſhe is utterly a foreigner to the language of looks and glances. In this I fancy you could help her better than any body. I have beſtowed two months in teaching her to ſigh when ſhe is not concerned, and to ſmile when ſhe is not pleaſed; and am aſhamed to own ſhe makes little or no improvement. Then ſhe is no more able now to walk, than ſhe was to go at a year old. By walking you will eaſily know I mean that regular but eaſy motion, which gives our perſons ſo irreſiſtible a grace as if we moved to muſic, and is a kind of diſengaged figure, or, if I may ſo ſpeak, recitative dancing. But the want of this I cannot blame in her, for I find ſhe has no ear, and means nothing by walking but to change her place. I could pardon too her bluſhing, if ſhe knew how to carry herſelf in it, and if it did not manifeſtly injure her complexion.

They tell me you are a perſon who have ſeen the world, and are a judge of fine-breeding; which makes me ambitious of ſome inſtructions from you for her improvement; which when you have favoured me with, ſhall further adviſe with you about the diſpoſal of this fair foreſter in marriage; for I will make it no ſecret to you, that her perſon and education are to be her fortune. I am, Sir, your very humble ſervant,

CELIMENE.

SIR,

BEING employed by Celimene to make up and ſend to you her letter, I make bold to recommend the caſe therein mentioned to your conſideration, becauſe ſhe and I happen to differ a little in our notions. I, who am a rough man, am afraid the young girl is in a fair way to be ſpoiled; therefore, pray, Mr. Spectator, let us have your opinion of this fine thing called Fine-Breeding; for I am afraid it differs too much from that plain thing called Good-Breeding.

Your moſt humble ſervant.

The general miſtake among us in the educating our children, is, that in our daughters, we take care of their perſons and neglect their minds; in our ſons, we are ſo intent upon adorning their minds, that we wholly neglect their bodies. It is from this that you ſhall ſee a young lady celebrated and admired in all the aſſembles about town, when her elder brother is afraid to come into a room. From this ill management it ariſes that we frequently obſerve a man's life is half ſpent before he is taken notice of; and a woman in the prime of her years

is

is out of fashion and neglected. The boy I shall consider upon some other occasion, and at present stick to the girl; and I am the more inclined to this, because I have several letters which complain to me that my female readers have not understood me some days last past, and take themselves to be unconcerned in the present turn of my writings. When a girl is safely brought from her nurse, before she is capable of forming one simple notion of any thing in life, she is delivered to the hands of her dancing master; and with a collar round her neck, the pretty wild thing is taught a fantastical gravity of behaviour, and forced to a particular way of holding her head, heaving her breast, and moving with her whole body; and all this under pain of never having an husband, if she steps, looks, or moves awry. This gives the young lady wonderful workings of imagination, what is to pass between her and this husband that she is every moment told of, and for whom she seems to be educated. Thus her fancy is engaged to turn all her endeavours to the ornament of her person, as what must determine her good and ill in this life; and she naturally thinks, if she is tall enoug, she is wise enough for any thing for which her education makes her think she is designed. To make her an agreeable person is the main purpose of her parents; to that is all their costs, to that all their care directed; and from this general folly of parents we owe our present numerous race of coquettes. These reflections puzzle me, when I think of giving my advice on the subject of managing the wild thing mentioned in the letter of my correspondent. But sure there is a middle way to be followed; the management of a young lady's person is not to be overlooked, but the erudition of her mind is much more to be regarded. According as this is managed, you will see the mind follow the appetites of the body, or the body express the virtues of the mind.

Cleomira dances with all the elegance of motion imaginable; but her eyes are so chastised with the simplicity and innocence of her thoughts, that she raises in her beholders admiration and goodwill, but no loose hope or wild imagination. The true art in this case is to make the mind and body improve together; and, if possible, to make gesture follow thought, and not let thought be employed upon gesture. R

N° LXVII. THURSDAY, MAY 17.

SALTARE ELEGANTIUS QUAM NECESSE EST PROBÆ. SALLUST.

TOO FINE A DANCER FOR A VIRTUOUS WOMAN.

LUCIAN, in one of his dialogues, introduces a philosopher chiding his friend for his being a lover of dancing, and a frequenter of balls. The other undertakes the defence of his favourite diversion, which, he says, was at first invented by the goddess Rhea, and preserved the life of Jupiter himself from the cruelty of his father Saturn. He proceeds to shew, that it had been approved by the greatest men in all ages; that Homer calls Merion a Fine Dancer; and says that the graceful mien and great agility which he had acquired by that exercise, distinguished him above the rest in the armies, both of Greeks and Trojans.

He adds, that Pyrrhus gained more reputation by inventing the dance which is called after his name, than by all his other actions: that the Lacedæmonians, who were the bravest people in Greece, gave great encouragement to this diversion, and made their Hormus, a dance much resembling the French Brawl, famous over all Asia: that there were still extant some Thessalian statues erected to the honour of the best dancers: and that he wondered how his brother philosopher could declare himself against the opinions of those two persons, whom he professed so much to admire, Homer and Hesiod; the latter of which compares valour and dancing together; and says, 'that the gods have bestowed for-'titude on some men, and on others a 'disposition for dancing.'

Lastly, he puts him in mind, that Socrates, who, in the judgment of Apollo, was the wisest of men, was not only a professed

profeſſed admirer of this exerciſe in others, but learned it himſelf when he was an old man.

The moroſe philoſopher is ſo much affected by theſe, and ſome other authorities, that he becomes a convert to his friend, and deſires he would take him with him when he went to his next ball.

I love to ſhelter myſelf under the examples of great men; and I think, I have ſufficiently ſhewed that it is not below the dignity of theſe my ſpeculations to take notice of the following letter, which, I ſuppoſe, is ſent me by ſome ſubſtantial tradeſman about 'Change.

SIR,

I Am a man in years, and by an honeſt induſtry in the world have acquired enough to give my children a liberal education, though I was an utter ſtranger to it myſelf. My eldeſt daughter, a girl of ſixteen, has for ſome time been under the tuition of Monſieur Rigadoon, a dancing-maſter in the city; and I was prevailed upon by her and her mother to go laſt night to one of his balls. I muſt own to you, Sir, that having never been at any ſuch place before, I was very much pleaſed and ſurpriſed with that part of his entertainment which he called French Dancing. There were ſeveral young men and women, whoſe limbs ſeemed to have no other motion but purely what the muſic gave them. After this part was over, they began a diverſion which they call Country Dancing, and wherein there were alſo ſome things not diſagreeable, and divers Emblematical Figures, compoſed, as I gueſs, by wiſe men, for the inſtruction of youth.

Among the reſt, I obſerved one, which, I think, they call Hunt the Squirrel, in which while the woman flies the man purſues her; but as ſoon as ſhe turns, he runs away, and ſhe is obliged to follow.

The moral of this dance does, I think, very aptly recommend modeſty and diſcretion to the female ſex.

But as the beſt inſtitutions are liable to corruptions, ſo, Sir, I muſt acquaint you, that very great abuſes are crept into this entertainment. I was amazed to ſee my girl handed by, and handing young fellows with ſo much familiarity; and I could not have thought it had been in the child. They very often made uſe of a moſt impudent and laſcivious ſtep called Setting, which I know not how to deſcribe to you, but by telling you that it is the very reverſe of back to back. At laſt an impudent young dog bid the fiddlers play a dance called Moll Pately, and after having made two or three capers, ran to his partner, locked his arms in hers, and whiſked her round cleverly above ground in ſuch a manner, that I, who ſat upon one of the loweſt benches, ſaw farther above her ſhoe than I can think fit to acquaint you with. I could no longer endure theſe enormities; wherefore, juſt as my girl was going to be made a whirligig. I ran in, ſeized on the child, and carried her home.

Sir, I am not yet old enough to be a fool. I ſuppoſe this diverſion might be at firſt invented to keep up a good underſtanding between young men and women, and ſo far I am not againſt it; but I ſhall never allow of theſe things. I know not what you will ſay to this caſe at preſent, but am ſure, that had you been with me, you would have ſeen matter of great ſpeculation. I am,

Yours, &c.

I muſt confeſs I am afraid that my correſpondent had too much reaſon to be a little out of humour at the treatment of his daughter; but I conclude that he would have been much more ſo, had he ſeen one of thoſe kiſſing dances in which Will Honeycomb aſſures me they are obliged to dwell almoſt a minute on the fair-one's lips, or they will be too quick for the muſic, and dance quite out of time.

I am not able, however, to give my final ſentence againſt this diverſion; and am of Mr. Cowley's opinion, that ſo much of dancing, at leaſt, as belongs to the behaviour and an handſome carriage of the body, is extremely uſeful, if not abſolutely neceſſary.

We generally form ſuch ideas of people at firſt ſight as we are hardly ever perſuaded to lay aſide afterwards: for this reaſon, a man would wiſh to have nothing diſagreeable or uncomely in his approaches, and to be able to enter a room with a good grace.

I might add, that a moderate knowledge in the little rules of good-breeding gives a man ſome aſſurance, and makes him eaſy in all companies. For want of this, I have ſeen a profeſſor of a liberal ſcience at a loſs to ſalute a lady, and,

and a moſt excellent mathematician not able to determine whether he ſhould ſtand or ſit while my lord drank to him.

It is the proper buſineſs of a dancing-maſter to regulate theſe matters; though I take it to be a juſt obſervation, that unleſs you add ſomething of your own to what theſe fine gentlemen teach you, and which they are wholly ignorant of themſelves, you will much ſooner get the character of an affected fop, than of a well-bred man.

As for Country Dancing, it muſt indeed be confeſſed that the great familiarities between the two ſexes on this occaſion may ſometimes produce very dangerous conſequences; and I have often thought that few ladies hearts are ſo obdurate as not to be melted by the charms of muſic, the force of motion, and an handſome young fellow who is continually playing before their eyes, and convincing them that he has the perfect uſe of all his limbs.

But as this kind of dance is the particular invention of our own country, and as every one is more or leſs a proficient in it, I would not diſcountenance it; but rather ſuppoſe it may be practiſed innocently by others, as well as myſelf, who am often partner to my landlady's eldeſt daughter.

POSTSCRIPT.

HAVING heard a good character of the collection of pictures which is to be expoſed to ſale on Friday next; and concluding from the following letter, that the perſon who collected them is a man of no unelegant taſte, I will be ſo much his friend as to publiſh it, provided the reader will only look upon it as filling up the place of an advertiſement.

FROM THE THREE CHAIRS IN THE PIAZZA, COVENT GARDEN.

SIR, MAY 16, 1711.

AS you are a Spectator, I think we, who make it our buſineſs to exhibit any thing to public view, ought to apply ourſelves to you for your approbation. I have travelled Europe, to furniſh out a ſhow for you, and have brought with me what has been admired in every country through which I paſſed. You have declared in many papers, that your greateſt delights are thoſe of the eye, which I do not doubt but I ſhall gratify with as beautiful objects as your ever beheld. If caſtles, foreſts, ruins, fine women, and graceful men, can pleaſe you, I dare promiſe you much ſatisfaction, if you will appear at my auction on Friday next. A ſight is, I ſuppoſe, as grateful to a Spectator, as a treat to another perſon, and therefore I hope you will pardon this invitation from, Sir, your moſt obedient humble ſervant,

X J. GRAHAM.

N° LXVIII. FRIDAY, MAY 18.

NOS DUO TURBA SUMUS—— OVID. MET. I. 355.

WE TWO ARE A MULTITUDE.

ONE would think that the larger the company is in which we are engaged, the greater variety of thoughts and ſubjects would be ſtarted in diſcourſe; but, inſtead of this, we find, that converſation is never ſo much ſtraitned and confined as in numerous aſſemblies. When a multitude meet together upon any ſubject of diſcourſe, their debates are taken up chiefly with forms and general poſitions; nay, if we come into a more contracted aſſembly of men and women, the talk generally runs upon the weather, faſhions, news, and the like public topics. In proportion as converſation gets into clubs and knots of friends, it deſcends into particulars, and grows more free and communicative: but the moſt open, inſtructive, and unreſerved diſcourſe, is that which paſſes between two perſons who are familiar and intimate friends. On theſe occaſions, a man gives a looſe to every paſſion and every thought that is uppermoſt, diſcovers his moſt retired opinions of perſons and things, tries the beauty and ſtrength of his ſentiments, and expoſes his whole ſoul to the examination of his friend.

Tully was the firſt who obſerved, that friendſhip improves happineſs and abates miſery, by the doubling of our joy and dividing

dividing of our grief; a thought in which he hath been followed by all the eſſayers upon friendſhip, that have written ſince his time. Sir Francis Bacon has finely deſcribed other advantages, or, as he calls them, fruits of friendſhip; and indeed there is no ſubject of morality which has been better handled and more exhauſted than this. Among the ſeveral fine things which have been ſpoken of it, I ſhall beg leave to quote ſome out of a very ancient author, whoſe book would be regarded by our modern wits as one of the moſt ſhining tracts of morality that is extant, if it appeared under the name of a Confucius, or of any celebrated Grecian philoſopher: I mean the little apocryphal treatiſe entitled, The Wiſdom of the Son of Sirach. How finely has he deſcribed the art of making friends, by an obliging and affable behaviour; and laid down that precept which a late excellent author has delivered as his own, That we ſhould have many well-wiſhers, but few friends. 'Sweet language will multiply friends; and a fair ſpeaking tongue 'will increaſe kind greetings. Be in 'peace with many, nevertheleſs have 'but one counſellor of a thouſand.' With what prudence does he caution us in the choice of our friends; and with what ſtrokes of nature, I could almoſt ſay of humour, has he deſcribed the behaviour of a treacherous and ſelf-intereſted friend?—'If thou wouldſt get a 'friend, prove him firſt, and be not 'haſty to credit him: for ſome man is a 'friend for his own occaſion, and will 'not abide in the day of thy trouble. 'And there is a friend, who being 'turned to enmity and ſtrife will diſcover thy reproach.' Again—'Some 'friend is a companion at the table, and 'will not continue in the day of thy 'affliction: but in thy proſperity he will 'be as thyſelf, and will be bold over 'thy ſervants. If thou be brought low 'he will be againſt thee, and hide himſelf from thy face.' What can be more ſtrong and pointed than the following verſe?—'Separate thyſelf from 'thine enemies, and take heed of thy 'friends.' In the next words he particularizes one of thoſe fruits of friendſhip which is deſcribed at length by the two famous authors above-mentioned, and falls into a general eulogium of friendſhip, which is very juſt as well as very ſublime.—'A faithful friend is a ſtrong 'defence; and he that hath found ſuch 'an one, hath found a treaſure. No'thing doth countervail a faithful 'friend, and his excellency is invaluable. A faithful friend is the medi'cine of life; and they that fear the 'Lord ſhall find him. Whoſo feareth 'the Lord ſhall direct his friendſhip 'aright; for as he is, ſo ſhall his neigh'bour,' that is, his friend, 'be alſo.' I do not remember to have met with any ſaying that has pleaſed me more than that of a friend's being the medicine of life, to expreſs the efficacy of friendſhip in healing the pains and anguiſh which naturally cleave to our exiſtence in this world; and am wonderfully pleaſed with the turn in the laſt ſentence, That a virtuous man ſhall as a bleſſing meet with a friend who is as virtuous as himſelf. There is another ſaying in the ſame author, which would have been very much admired in an heathen writer—'Forſake not an old friend, for the new is 'not comparable to him: a new friend 'is as new wine; when it is old thou 'ſhalt drink it with pleaſure.' With what ſtrength of alluſion, and force of thought, has he deſcribed the breaches and violations of friendſhip!—'Whoſo 'caſteth a ſtone at the birds frayeth 'them away; and he that upbraideth his 'friend, breaketh friendſhip. Though 'thou draweſt a ſword at a friend, yet 'deſpair not; for there may be a returning to favour: if thou haſt opened thy 'mouth againſt thy friend, fear not; for 'there may be a reconciliation; except 'for upbraiding, or pride, or diſcloſing 'of ſecrets, or a treacherous wound; 'for, for theſe things every friend will 'depart.' We may obſerve in this, and ſeveral other precepts in this author, thoſe little familiar inſtances and illuſtrations which are ſo much admired in the moral writings of Horace and Epictetus. There are very beautiful inſtances of this nature in the following paſſages, which are likewiſe written upon the ſame ſubject—'Whoſo diſcovereth ſecrets, 'loſeth his credit, and ſhall never find 'a friend to his mind. Love thy friend, 'and be faithful unto him; but if thou 'betrayeſt his ſecrets, follow no more 'after him: for as a man hath deſtroyed his enemy, ſo haſt thou loſt the love 'of thy friend; as one that letteth a bird 'go out of his hand, ſo haſt thou let thy 'friend go, and ſhalt not get him again; 'follow after him no more, for he is too

'far

'far off; he is as a roe escaped out of the snare. As for a wound, it may 'be bound up, and after reviling there 'may be reconciliation; but he that be-'wrayeth secrets, is without hope.'

Among the several qualifications of a good friend, this wise man has very justly singled out constancy and faithfulness as the principal: to these, others have added virtue, knowledge, discretion, equality in age and fortune, and as Cicero calls it, '*Morum Comitas*—a 'pleasantness of temper.' If I were to give my opinion upon such an exhausted subject, I should join to these other qualifications a certain equability or evenness of behaviour. A man often contracts a friendship with one whom perhaps he does not find out till after a year's conversation; when on a sudden some latent ill humour breaks out upon him, which he never discovered or suspected at his first entering into an intimacy with him. There are several persons who in some certain periods of their lives are inexpressibly agreeable, and in others as odious and detestable. Martial has given us a very pretty picture of one of this species in the following epigram:

Difficilis, facilis, jucundus, acerbus es idem,
Nec tecum possum vivere, nec sine te.

EPIG. xii. 47.

In all thy humours, whether grave or mellow,
Thou'rt such a touchy, testy, pleasant fellow;
Hast so much wit, and mirth, and spleen about thee,
There is no living with thee, nor without thee.

It is very unlucky for a man to be entangled in a friendship with one, who by these changes and vicissitudes of humour is sometimes amiable and sometimes odious: and as most men are at some times in an admirable frame and disposition of mind, it should be one of the greatest tasks of wisdom to keep ourselves well when we are so, and never to go out of that which is the agreeable part of our character. C

N° LXIX. SATURDAY, MAY 19.

HIC SEGETES, ILLUC VENIUNT FELICIUS UVÆ:
ARBOREI FOETUS ALIBI ATQUE INJUSSA VIRESCUNT
GRAMINA. NONNE VIDES, CROCEOS UT TMOLUS ODORES,
INDIA MITTIT EBUR, MOLLES SUA THURA SABÆI?
AT CHALYBES NUDI FERRUM, VIROSAQUE PONTUS
CASTOREA, ELIADUM PALMAS EPIRUS EQUARUM?
CONTINUO HAS LEGES ÆTERNAQUE FOEDERA CERTIS
IMPOSUIT NATURA LOCIS ——

VIRG. GEORG. I. 54.

THIS GROUND WITH BACCHUS, THAT WITH CERES SUITS:
THAT OTHER LOADS THE TREES WITH HAPPY FRUITS;
A FOURTH WITH GRASS, UNBIDDEN, DECKS THE GROUND:
THUS TMOLUS IS WITH YELLOW SAFFRON CROWN'D:
INDIA BLACK EBON AND WHITE IV'RY BEARS;
AND SOFT IDUME WEEPS HER OD'ROUS TEARS:
THUS PONTUS SENDS HER BEAVER STONES FROM FAR;
AND NAKED SPANIARDS TEMPER STEEL FOR WAR:
EPIRUS FOR TH' ELEAN CHARIOT BREEDS
(IN HOPES OF PALMS) A RACE OF RUNNING STEEDS.
THIS IS TH' ORIGINAL CONTRACT; THESE THE LAWS
IMPOS'D BY NATURE, AND BY NATURE'S CAUSE.

DRYDEN.

THERE is no place in town which I so much love to frequent as the Royal-Exchange. It gives me a secret satisfaction, and, in some measure, gratifies my vanity, as I am an Englishman, to see so rich an assembly of countrymen and foreigners consulting together upon the private business of mankind, and making this metropolis a kind of Emporium for the whole earth. I must confess I look upon High-Change to be a great council, in which all considerable nations have their representatives. Factors in the trading world are what ambassadors are in the politic world; they negotiate affairs, conclude

treaties, and maintain a good correſpondence between thoſe wealthy ſocieties of men that are divided from one another by ſeas and oceans, or live on the different extremities of a continent. I have often been pleaſed to hear diſputes adjuſted between an inhabitant of Japan and an alderman of London, or to ſee a ſubject of the Great Mogul entering into a league with one of the Czar of Muſcovy. I am infinitely delighted in mixing with theſe ſeveral miniſters of commerce, as they are diſtinguiſhed by their different walks and different languages: ſometimes I am juſtled among a body of Armenians: ſometimes I am loſt in a crowd of Jews; and ſometimes make one in a groupe of Dutchmen. I am a Dane, Swede, or Frenchman, at different times; or rather fancy myſelf like the old philoſopher, who, upon being aſked what countryman he was, replied, that he was a citizen of the world.

Though I very frequently viſit this buſy multitude of people, I am known to nobody there but my friend Sir Andrew, who often ſmiles upon me as he ſees me buſtling in the crowd, but at the ſame time connives at my preſence without taking any further notice of me. There is indeed a merchant of Egypt, who juſt knows me by ſight, having formerly remitted me ſome money to Grand Cairo; but as I am not verſed in the modern Coptic, our conferences go no further than a bow and a grimace.

This grand ſcene of buſineſs gives me an infinite variety of ſolid and ſubſtantial entertainments. As I am a great lover of mankind, my heart naturally overflows with pleaſure at the ſight of a proſperous and happy multitude, inſomuch that at many public ſolemnities I cannot forbear expreſſing my joy with tears that have ſtolen down my cheeks. For this reaſon I am wonderfully delighted to ſee ſuch a body of men thriving in their own private fortunes, and at the ſame time promoting the public ſtock; or, in other words, raiſing eſtates for their own families, by bringing into their country whatever is wanting, and carrying out of it whatever is ſuperfluous.

Nature ſeems to have taken a particular care to diſſeminate her bleſſings among the different regions of the world, with an eye to this mutual intercourſe and traffic among mankind, that the natives of the ſeveral parts of the globe might have a kind of dependence upon one another, and be united together by their common intereſt. Almoſt every degree produces ſomething peculiar to it. The food often grows in one country, and the face in another. The fruits of Portugal are corrected by the products of Barbadoes: the infuſion of a China plant ſweetened with the pith of an Indian cane. The Philippine iſlands give a flavour to our European bowls. The ſingle dreſs of a woman of quality is often the product of an hundred climates. The muff and the fan come together from the different ends of the earth. The ſcarf is ſent from the torrid zone; and the tippet from beneath the pole. The brocade petticoat riſes out of the mines of Peru; and the diamond necklace out of the bowels of Indoſtan.

If we conſider our own country in it's natural proſpect, without any of the benefits and advantages of commerce, what a barren uncomfortable ſpot of earth falls to our ſhare! Natural hiſtorians tell us, that no fruit grows originally among us, beſides hips and haws, acorns and pig-nuts, with other delicacies of the like nature; that our climate of itſelf, and without the aſſiſtances of art, can make no further advances towards a plum than to a ſloe, and carries an apple to no greater perfection than a crab; that our melons, our peaches, our figs, our apricots, and cherries, are ſtrangers among us, imported in different ages, and naturalized in our Engliſh gardens; and that they would all degenerate and fall away into the traſh of our own country, if they were wholly neglected by the planter, and left to the mercy of our ſun and ſoil. Nor has traffic more enriched our vegetable world, than it has improved the whole face of nature among us. Our ſhips are laden with the harveſt of every climate: our tables are ſtored with ſpices, and oils, and wines; our rooms are filled with pyramids of China, and adorned with the workmanſhip of Japan: our morning's draught comes to us from the remoteſt corners of the earth: we repair our bodies by the drugs of America, and repoſe ourſelves under Indian canopies. My friend Sir Andrew calls the vineyards of France our gardens; the ſpice-iſlands, our hot-beds; the Perſians our ſilk-weavers, and the Chineſe our potters.

potters. Nature indeed furniſhes us with the bare neceſſaries of life; but traffic give us a great variety of what is uſeful, and at the ſame ſupplies us with every thing that is convenient and ornamental. Nor is it the leaſt part of this our happineſs, that whilſt we enjoy the remoteſt products of the north and ſouth, we are free from thoſe extremities of weather which gave them birth: that our eyes are refreſhed with the green fields of Britain, at the ſame time that our palates are feaſted with fruits that riſe between the tropics.

For theſe reaſons there are not more uſeful members in a commonwealth than merchants. They knit mankind together in a mutual intercourſe of good offices, diſtribute the gifts of nature, find work for the poor, add wealth to the rich, and magnificence to the great. Our Engliſh merchant converts the tin of his own country into gold, and exchanges his wool for rubies. The Mahometans are cloathed in our Britiſh manufacture; and the inhabitants of the frozen zone warmed with the fleeces of our ſheep.

When I have been upon the 'Change, I have often fancied one of our kings ſtanding in perſon, where he is repreſented in effigy, and looking down upon the wealthy concourſe of people with which that place is every day filled. In this caſe, how would he be ſurpriſed to hear all the languages of Europe ſpoken in this little ſpot of his former dominions, and to ſee ſo many private men, who in his time would have been the vaſſals of ſome powerful baron, negotiating like princes for greater ſums of money than were formerly to be met with in the Royal Treaſury! Trade, without enlarging the Britiſh territories, has given us a kind of additional empire: it has multiplied the number of the rich, made our landed eſtates infinitely more valuable than they were formerly, and added to them an acceſſion of other eſtates as valuable as the lands themſelves.

C

N° LXX. MONDAY, MAY 21.

INTERDUM VULGUS RECTUM VIDET.

HOR. EP. II. 1. 63.

SOMETIMES THE VULGAR SEE, AND JUDGE, ARIGHT.

WHEN I travelled, I took a particular delight in hearing the ſongs and fables that are come from father to ſon, and are moſt in vogue among the common people of the countries through which I paſſed; for it is impoſſible that any thing ſhould be univerſally taſted and approved by a multitude, though they are only the rabble of a nation, which hath not in it ſome peculiar aptneſs to pleaſe and gratify the mind of man. Human nature is the ſame in all reaſonable creatures; and whatever falls in with it, will meet with admirers amongſt readers of all qualities and conditions. Moliere, we are told by Monſieur Boileau, uſed to read all his comedies to an old woman who was his houſe-keeper, as ſhe ſat with him at her work by the chimney-corner; and could foretel the ſucceſs of his play in the theatre, from the reception it met at his fire-ſide: for he tells us the audience always followed the old woman, and never failed to laugh in the ſame place.

I know nothing which more ſhews the eſſential and inherent perfection of ſimplicity of thought, above that which I call the Gothic manner in writing, than this, that the firſt pleaſes all kinds of palates, and the latter only ſuch as have formed to themſelves a wrong artificial taſte upon little fanciful authors and writers of epigrams. Homer, Virgil, or Milton, ſo far as the language of their poems is underſtood, will pleaſe a reader of plain common ſenſe, who would neither reliſh nor comprehend an epigram of Martial; or a poem of Cowley; ſo, on the contrary, an ordinary ſong or ballad that is the delight of the common people, cannot fail to pleaſe all ſuch readers as are not unqualified for the entertainment by their affectation or ignorance; and the reaſon is plain, becauſe the ſame paintings of nature which recommend it to the moſt ordinary

reader, will appear beautiful to the moſt refined.

The old ſong of Chevy Chaſe is the favourite ballad of the common people of England; and Ben Johnſon uſed to ſay he had rather have been the author of it than of all his works. Sir Philip Sidney, in his diſcourſe of poetry, ſpeaks of it in the following words: 'I never 'heard the old ſong of Piercy and Doug-'las, that I found not my heart more 'moved than with a trumpet; and yet 'it is ſung by ſome blind crowder with 'no rougher voice than rude ſtile; which 'being ſo evil apparelled in the duſt and 'cobweb of that uncivil age, what would 'it work trimmed in the gorgeous elo-'quence of Pindar?' For my own part, I am ſo profeſſed an admirer of this antiquated ſong, that I ſhall give my reader a critique upon it, without any further apology for ſo doing.

The greateſt modern critics have laid it down as a rule, that an heroic poem ſhould be founded upon ſome important precept of morality adapted to the conſtitution of the country in which the poet writes. Homer and Virgil have formed their plans in this view. As Greece was a collection of many governments, who ſuffered very much among themſelves, and gave the Perſian emperor, who was their common enemy, many advantages over them by their mutual jealouſies and animoſities, Homer, in order to eſtabliſh among them an union, which was ſo neceſſary for their ſafety, grounds his poem upon the diſcords of the ſeveral Grecian princes who were engaged in a confederacy againſt an Aſiatic prince, and the ſeveral advantages which the enemy gained by ſuch their diſcords. At the time the poem we are now treating of was written, the diſſentions of the barons, who were then ſo many petty princes, ran very high, whether they quarrelled among themſelves, or with their neighbours, and produced unſpeakable calamities to the country: the poet, to deter men from ſuch unnatural contentions, deſcribes a bloody battle and dreadful ſcene of death, occaſioned by the mutual feuds which reigned in the families of an Engliſh and Scotch nobleman. That he deſigned this for the inſtruction of his poem, we may learn from his four laſt lines, in which, after the example of the modern tragedians, he draws from it a precept for the benefit of his readers.

God ſave the king, and bleſs the land
In plenty, joy, and peace;
And grant henceforth that foul debate
'Twixt noblemen may ceaſe.

The next point obſerved by the greateſt heroic poets, hath been to celebrate perſons and actions, which do honour to their country: thus Virgil's hero was the founder of Rome; Homer's a prince of Greece; and for this reaſon Valerius Flaccus and Statius, who were both Romans, might be juſtly derided for having choſen the expedition of the Golden Fleece, and the Wars of Thebes, for the ſubject of their epic writings.

The poet before us has not only found out an hero in his own country, but raiſes the reputation of it by ſeveral beautiful incidents. The Engliſh are the firſt who take the field, and the laſt who quit it. The Engliſh bring only fifteen hundred to the battle; the Scotch, two thouſand. The Engliſh keep the field with fifty-three; the Scotch retire with fifty-five: all the reſt on eaſt ſide being ſlain in battle. But the moſt remarkable circumſtance of this kind, is the different manner in which the Scotch and Engliſh kings receive the news of this fight, and of the great men's deaths who commanded in it.

This news was brought to Edinburgh,
Where Scotland's king did reign,
That brave Earl Douglas ſuddenly
Was with an arrow ſlain.

'O heavy news,' king James did ſay;
'Scotland can witneſs be,
'I have not any captain more
'Of ſuch account as he.'

Like tidings to king Henry came
Within as ſhort a ſpace,
That Piercy of Northumberland
Was ſlain in Chevy-Chaſe.

'Now God be with him,' ſaid our king,
'Sith 'twill no better be,
'I have within my realm
'Five hundred good as he.

'Yet ſhall not Scot nor Scotland ſay
'But I will vengeance take,
'And be revenged on them all
'For brave Lord Piercy's ſake.'

This vow full well the king perform'd
After, on Humble-down;
In one day fifty knights were ſlain,
With lords of great renown.

And

And of the reſt, of ſmall account,
Did many thouſands die, &c.

At the ſame time that our poet ſhews a laudable partiality to his countrymen, he repreſents the Scots after a manner not unbecoming ſo bold and brave a people.

Earl Douglas on a milk-white ſteed,
Moſt like a baron bold,
Rode foremoſt of the company,
Whoſe armour ſhone like gold.

His ſentiments and actions are every way ſuitable to an hero. 'One of us 'two,' ſays he, 'muſt die. I am an 'earl as well as yourſelf, ſo that you 'can have no pretence for refuſing the 'combat: however,' ſays he, 'tis pity, 'and indeed would be a ſin, that ſo 'many innocent men ſhould periſh for 'our ſakes; rather let you and I end 'our quarrel in ſingle fight.'

'Ere thus I will out-braved be,
'One of us two ſhall die;
'I know thee well, an earl thou art,
'Lord Piercy, ſo am I.

'But truſt me, Piercy, pity it were,
'A great offence, to kill
'Any of theſe our harmleſs men,
'For they have done no ill.

'Let thou and I the battle try,
'And ſet our men aſide.'—
'Accurſt be he,' Lord Piercy ſaid,
'By whom this is deny'd.'

When theſe brave men had diſtinguiſhed themſelves in the battle and in ſingle combat with each other, in the midſt of a generous parley, full of heroic ſentiments, the Scotch earl falls; and with his dying words encourages his men to revenge his death, repreſenting to them, as the moſt bitter circumſtance of it, that his rival ſaw him fall.

With that there came an arrow keen
Out of an Engliſh bow,
Which ſtruck Earl Douglas to the heart
A deep and deadly blow.

Who never ſpoke more words than theſe,
'Fight on my merry men all,
'For why, my life is at an end,
'Lord Piercy ſees my fall.'

Merry Men, in the language of thoſe times, is no more than a chearful word for companions and fellow-ſoldiers. A paſſage in the eleventh book of Virgil's Æneid is very much to be admired, where Camilla in her laſt agonies, inſtead of weeping over the wound ſhe had received, as one might have expected from a warrior of her ſex, conſiders only, like the hero of whom we are now ſpeaking, how the battle ſhould be continued after her death.

Tum ſic expirans Accam ex æqualibus unam
Alloquitur; fida ante alias quæ ſola Camillæ,
Quicum partiri curas; atque hæc ita fatur:
Hactenus, Acca ſoror, potui: nunc vulnus acerbum
Conficit et tenebris nigreſcunt omnia circum:
Effuge, et hæc Turno mandata noviſſima perfer;
Succedat pugnæ, Trojanoſque arceat urbe:
Jamque vale.—— ÆN. xi. 820.

A gathering miſt o'erclouds her chearful eyes,
And from her cheeks the roſy colour flies,
Then turns to her, whom, of her female train,
She truſted moſt, and thus ſhe ſpeaks with pain.
'Acca, 'tis paſt! he ſwims before my ſight,
'Inexorable death! and claims his right.
'Bear my laſt words to Turnus, fly with ſpeed,
'And bid him timely to my charge ſucceed;
'Repel the Trojans, and the town relieve:
'Farewel.' DRYDEN.

Turnus did not die in ſo heroic a manner; though our poet ſeems to have had his eye upon Turnus's ſpeech in the laſt verſe,

'Lord Piercy ſees my fall.'

——Viciſti, et victum tendere palmas
Auſonii videre—— ÆN. XII. 936.

The Latian chiefs have ſeen me beg my life.
DRYDEN.

Earl Piercy's lamentation over his enemy is generous, beautiful, and paſſionate; I muſt only caution the reader not to let the ſimplicity of the ſtile, which one may well pardon in ſo old a poet, prejudice him againſt the greatneſs of the thought.

Then leaving life, Earl Piercy took
The dead man by the hand,
And ſaid—'Earl Douglas, for thy life
'Would I had loſt my land.

'O Chriſt! my very heart doth bleed
'With ſorrow for thy ſake;
'For ſure a more renowned knight
'Miſchance did never take.'

That beautiful line, Taking the dead man by the hand, will put the reader in mind of Æneas's behaviour towards Lauſus, whom he himſelf had ſlain as he came to the reſcue of his aged father.

At verò ut vultum vidit morientis, et ora,
Ora modis Anchiſiades pallentia miris;
Ingemuit, miſerans graviter, dextramque tetendit. ÆN. x. 822.

The pious prince beheld young Lauſus dead;
He griev'd, he wept; then graſp'd his hand, and ſaid, &c. DRYDEN.

I ſhall take another opportunity to conſider the other parts of this old ſong.

N° LXXI. TUESDAY, MAY 22.

——SCRIBERE JUSSIT AMOR.

OVID. EPIST. IV. 10.

LOVE BADE ME WRITE.

THE intire conqueſt of our paſſions is ſo difficult a work, that they who deſpair of it ſhould think of a leſs difficult taſk, and only attempt to regulate them. But there is a third thing, which may contribute not only to the eaſe, but alſo to the pleaſure of our life; and that is, refining our paſſions to a greater elegance than we receive them from nature. When the paſſion is love, this work is performed in innocent, though rude and uncultivated minds, by the mere force and dignity of the object. There are forms which naturally create reſpect in the beholders, and at once inflame and chaſtiſe the imagination. Such an impreſſion as this gives an immediate ambition to deſerve, in order to pleaſe. This cauſe and effect are beautifully deſcribed by Mr. Dryden in the fable of Cimon and Iphigenia. After he has repreſented Cimon ſo ſtupid, that—

He whiſtled as he went, for want of thought—

he makes him fall into the following ſcene, and ſhews it's influence upon him ſo excellently, that it appears as natural as wonderful.

It happen'd on a ſummer's holiday
That to the green wood-ſhade he took his way;
His quarter-ſtaff, which he could ne'er forſake,
Hung half before, and half behind his back.
He trudg'd along, unknowing what he ſought,
And whiſtled as he went for want of thought.
By chance conducted, or by thirſt conſtrain'd;
The deep receſſes of the grove he gain'd;
Where in a plain, defended by the wood,
Crept thro' the matted graſs a cryſtal flood,
By which an alabaſter fountain ſtood:
And on the margin of the fount was laid,
(Attended by her ſlaves) a ſleeping maid;
Like Dian and her nymphs, when tir'd with ſport,
To reſt by cool Eurotas they reſort.
The dame herſelf the goddeſs well expreſs'd,
Not more diſtinguiſh'd by her purple veſt,
Than by the charming features of her face,
And ev'n in ſlumber a ſuperior grace:
Her comely limbs compos'd with decent care,
Her body ſhaded with a ſlight cymarr;
Her boſom to the view was only bare:
The fanning wind upon her boſom blows,
To meet the fanning wind the boſom roſe,
The fanning wind and purling ſtreams continue her repoſe.
The fool of nature ſtood with ſtupid eyes
And gaping mouth, that teſtify'd ſurprize,
Fix'd on her face, nor could remove his ſight,
New as he was to love, and novice in delight.
Long mute he ſtood; and, leaning on his ſtaff,
His wonder witneſs'd with an idiot laugh:
Then would have ſpoke; but, by his glimm'ring ſenſe,
Firſt found his want of words, and fear'd offence;
Doubted for what he was he ſhould be known,
By his clown accent, and his country tone.

But leſt this fine deſcription ſhould be excepted againſt, as the creation of that great maſter, Mr. Dryden, and not an account of what has really ever happened in the world; I ſhall give you, verbatim, the epiſtle of an enamoured footman in the country to his miſtreſs. Their ſurnames ſhall not be inſerted, becauſe their paſſion demands a greater reſpect than is due to their quality. James is ſervant in a great family, and Elizabeth waits upon the daughter of one as numerous, ſome miles off of her lover. James, before he beheld Betty, was vain of his ſtrength, a rough wreſtler, and quarrelſome cudgel-player; Betty a public dancer at may-poles, a romp at ſtool-ball: he always following idle women, ſhe playing among the peaſants; he a country bully, ſhe a country coquette. But love has made her conſtantly in her miſtreſs's chamber, where the young lady gratifies a ſecret paſſion of her own, by making Betty talk of James; and James is become a conſtant waiter near his maſter's apartment, in reading, as well as he can, romances. I cannot learn who Molly is, who it ſeems walked ten miles to carry the angry meſſage, which gave occaſion to what follows.

TO ELIZABETH ——

MY DEAR BETTY, MAY 24, 1711.

REMEMBER your bleeding lover, who lies bleeding at the wounds Cupid made with the arrows he borrowed

rowed at the eyes of Venus, which is your ſweet perſon.

Nay more, with the token you ſent me for my love and ſervice offered to your ſweet perſon; which was your baſe reſpects to my ill conditions; when, alas! there is no ill conditions in me, but quite contrary; all love and purity, eſpecially to your ſweet perſon; but all this I take as a jeſt.

But the ſad and diſmal news which Molly brought me ſtruck me to the heart, which was, it ſeems, and is, your ill conditions for my love and reſpects to you.

For ſhe told me, if I came forty times to you, you would not ſpeak with me, which words I am ſure is a great grief to me.

Now, my dear, if I may not be permitted to your ſweet company, and to have the happineſs of ſpeaking with your ſweet perſon, I beg the favour of you to accept of this my ſecret mind and thoughts, which hath ſo long lodged in my breaſt; the which if you do not accept, I believe will go nigh to break my heart.

For indeed, my dear, I love you above all the beauties I ever ſaw in all my life.

The young gentleman, and my maſter's daughter, the Londoner that is come down to marry her, ſat in the arbour moſt part of laſt night. O! dear Betty, muſt the nightingales ſing to thoſe who marry for money, and not to us true lovers! Oh, my dear Betty, that we could meet this night where we uſed to do in the wood!

Now, my dear, if I may not have the bleſſing of kiſſing your ſweet lips, I beg I may have the happineſs of kiſſing your fair hand, with a few lines from your dear ſelf, preſented by whom you pleaſe or think fit. I believe, if time would permit me, I could write all day; but the time being ſhort, and paper little, no more from your never-failing lover till death,

JAMES ——

Poor James! ſince his time and paper were ſo ſhort; I, that have more than I can uſe well of both, will put the ſentiments of his kind letter, the ſtile of which ſeems to be confuſed with ſcraps he had got in hearing and reading what he did not underſtand, into what he meant to expreſs.

DEAR CREATURE,

CAN you then neglect him who has forgot all his recreations and enjoyments to pine away his life in thinking of you? When I do ſo, you appear more amiable to me than Venus does in the moſt beautiful deſcription that ever was made of her. All this kindneſs you return with an accuſation, that I do not love you: but the contrary is ſo manifeſt, that I cannot think you in earneſt. But the certainty given me in your meſſage by Molly, that you do not love me, is what robs me of all comfort. She ſays you will not ſee me: if you can have ſo much cruelty, at leaſt write to me, that I may kiſs the impreſſion made by your fair hand. I love you above all things; and, in my condition, what you look upon with indifference is to me the moſt exquiſite pleaſure or pain. Our young lady, and a fine gentleman from London, who are to marry for mercenary ends, walk about our gardens, and hear the voice of evening nightingales, as if for faſhion ſake they courted thoſe ſolitudes, becauſe they have heard lovers do ſo. Oh, Betty! could I hear thoſe rivulets murmur, and birds ſing while you ſtood near me, how little ſenſible ſhould I be that we are both ſervants, that there is any thing on earth above us. Oh! I could write to you as long as I love you, till death itſelf.

JAMES.

N. B. By the words Ill-Conditions, James means in a woman Coquetry, in a man Inconſtancy. R

N° LXXII. WEDNESDAY, MAY 23.

——GENUS IMMORTALE MANET, MULTOSQUE PER ANNOS
STAT FORTUNA DOMUS, ET AVI NUMERANTUR AVORUM.
VIRG. GEORG. IV. 208.

TH' IMMORTAL LINE IN SURE SUCCESSION REIGNS,
THE FORTUNE OF THE FAMILY REMAINS,
AND GRANDSIRES GRANDSONS THE LONG LIST CONTAINS.
DRYDEN.

HAVING already given my reader an account of ſeveral extraordinary clubs both ancient and modern, I did not deſign to have troubled him with any more narratives of this nature; but I have lately received information of a club which I can call neither ancient nor modern, that I dare ſay will be no leſs ſurpriſing to my reader than it was to myſelf; for which reaſon I ſhall communicate it to the public as one of the greateſt curioſities in it's kind.

A friend of mine complaining of a tradeſman who is related to him, after having repreſented him as a very idle worthleſs fellow, who neglected his family, and ſpent moſt of his time over a bottle, told me, to conclude his character, that he was a member of the Everlaſting Club. So very odd a title raiſed my curioſity to inquire into the nature of a club that had ſuch a ſounding name; upon which my friend gave me the following account.

THE Everlaſting Club conſiſts of an hundred members, who divide the whole twenty-four hours among them in ſuch a manner, that the club ſits day and night from one end of the year to another; no party preſuming to riſe till they are relieved by thoſe who are in courſe to ſucceed them. By this means a member of the Everlaſting Club never wants company; for though he is not upon duty himſelf, he is ſure to find ſome who are; ſo that if he be diſpoſed to take a whet, a nooning, an evening's draught, or a bottle after midnight, he goes to the club, and finds a knot of friends to his mind.

It is a maxim in this club, that the ſteward never dies; for as they ſucceed one another by way of rotation, no man is to quit the great elbow-chair which ſtands at the upper end of the table, till his ſucceſſor is in readineſs to fill it; inſomuch that there has not been a *Sede vacante* in the memory of man.

This club was inſtituted towards the end, or, as ſome of them ſay, about the middle, of the civil wars, and continued without interruption till the time of the Great Fire, which burnt them out, and diſperſed them for ſeveral weeks. The ſteward at that time maintained his poſt till he had like to have been blown up with a neighbouring houſe, which was demoliſhed in order to ſtop the fire; and would not leave the chair at laſt, till he had emptied all the bottles upon the table, and received repeated directions from the club to withdraw himſelf. This ſteward is frequently talked of in the club, and looked upon by every member of it as a greater man than the famous captain mentioned in my Lord Clarendon, who was burnt in his ſhip becauſe he would not quit it without orders. It is ſaid, that towards the cloſe of 1700, being the great year of jubilee, the club had it under conſideration whether they ſhould break up or continue their ſeſſion; but, after many ſpeeches and debates, it was at length agreed to ſit out the other century. This reſolution paſſed in a general club *nemine contradicente*.

Having given this ſhort account of the inſtitution and continuation of the Everlaſting Club, I ſhould here endeavour to ſay ſomething of the manners and characters of it's ſeveral members, which I ſhall do according to the beſt lights I have received in this matter.

It appears by their books in general, that, ſince their firſt inſtitution, they have ſmoked fifty ton of tobacco, drank thirty thouſand butts of ale, one thouſand hogſheads of red port, two hundred barrels of brandy; and a kilderkin of ſmall-beer. There has been likewiſe a great conſumption of cards. It is alſo ſaid, that they obſerve the law in Ben Jonſon's club, which orders the fire to be always kept in, *focus perennis eſto*, as well for the convenience of lighting their pipes, as to cure the dampneſs of the

the club-room. They have an old woman in the nature of a veſtal, whoſe buſineſs it is to cheriſh and perpetuate the fire which burns from generation to generation, and has ſeen the glaſs-houſe fires in and out above an hundred times.

The Everlaſting club treats all other clubs with an eye of contempt, and talks even of the Kit-Cat and October as of a couple of upſtarts. Their ordinary diſcourſe, as much as I have been able to learn of it, turns altogether upon ſuch adventures as have paſſed in their own aſſembly; of members who have taken the glaſs in their turns for a week together, without ſtirring out of the club; of others who have not miſſed their morning's draught for twenty years together: ſometimes they ſpeak in raptures of a run of ale in King Charles's reign; and ſometimes reflect with aſtoniſhment upon games at whiſt, which have been miraculouſly recovered by members of the ſociety, when in all human probability the caſe was deſperate.

They delight in ſeveral old catches, which they ſing at all hours, to encourage one another to moiſten their clay, and grow immortal by drinking; with many other edifying exhortations of the like nature.

There are four general clubs held in a year, at which time they fill up vacancies, appoint waiters, confirm the old fire-maker, or elect a new one, and ſettle contributions for coals, pipes, tobacco, and other neceſſaries.

The ſenior-member has outlived the whole club twice over, and has been drunk with the grandfathers of ſome of the preſent ſitting members.

C

N° LXXIII. THURSDAY, MAY 24.

——O DEA CERTE! VIRG. ÆN. I. 332.

O GODDESS! FOR NO LESS YOU SEEM.

IT is very ſtrange to conſider, that a creature like man, who is ſenſible of ſo many weakneſſes and imperfections, ſhould be actuated by a love of fame: that vice and ignorance, imperfection and miſery, ſhould contend for praiſe, and endeavour as much as poſſible to make themſelves objects of admiration.

But notwithſtanding man's eſſential perfection is but very little, his comparative perfection may be very conſiderable. If he looks upon himſelf in an abſtracted light, he has not much to boaſt of; but if he conſiders himſelf with regard to others, he may find occaſion of glorying, if not in his own virtues, at leaſt in the abſence of another's imperfections. This gives a different turn to the reflections of the wiſe man and the fool. The firſt endeavours to ſhine in himſelf, and the laſt to outſhine others. The firſt is humbled by the ſenſe of his own infirmities, the laſt is lifted up by the diſcovery of thoſe which he obſerves in other men. The wiſe man conſiders what he wants, and the fool what he abounds in. The wiſe man is happy when he gains his own approbation, and the fool when he recommends himſelf to the applauſe of thoſe about him.

But however unreaſonable and abſurd this paſſion for admiration may appear in ſuch a creature as man, it is not wholly to be diſcouraged; ſince it often produces very good effects, not only as it reſtrains him from doing any thing which is mean and contemptible, but as it puſhes him on to actions which are great and glorious. The principle may be defective or faulty; but the conſequences it produces are ſo good, that, for the benefit of mankind, it ought not to be extinguiſhed.

It is obſerved by Cicero, that men of the greateſt and the moſt ſhining parts are the moſt actuated by ambition; and if we look into the two ſexes, I believe we ſhall find this principle of action ſtronger in women than in men.

The paſſion for praiſe, which is ſo very vehement in the fair-ſex, produces excellent effects in women of ſenſe, who deſire to be admired for that only which deſerves admiration: and I think we may obſerve, without a compliment to them, that many of them do not only live in a more uniform courſe of virtue, but with an infinitely greater regard to their honour, than what we find in the generality of our own ſex. How many inſtances have we of chaſtity, fidelity,

devotion? How many ladies diſtinguiſh themſelves by the education of their children, care of their families, and love of their huſbands, which are the great qualities and atchievements of woman-kind: as the making of war, the carrying on of traffic, the adminiſtration of juſtice, are thoſe by which men grow famous, and get themſelves a name?

But as this paſſion for admiration, when it works according to reaſon, improves the beautiful part of our ſpecies in every thing that is laudable: ſo nothing is more deſtructive to them when it is governed by vanity and folly. What I have therefore here to ſay, only regards the vain part of the ſex, whom for certain reaſons, which the reader will hereafter ſee at large, I ſhall diſtinguiſh by the name of Idols. An Idol is wholly taken up in the adorning of her perſon. You ſee in every poſture of her body, air of her face, and motion of her head, that it is her buſineſs and employment to gain adorers. For this reaſon your Idols appear in all public places and aſſemblies, in order to ſeduce men to their worſhip. The play-houſe is very frequently filled with Idols; ſeveral of them are carried in proceſſion every evening about the Ring, and ſeveral of them ſet up their worſhip even in churches. They are to be accoſted in the language proper to the Deity. Life and death are in their power; joys of heaven, and pains of hell, are at their diſpoſal; paradiſe is in their arms; and eternity in every moment that you are preſent with them. Raptures, tranſports, and extaſies, are the rewards which they confer: ſighs and tears, prayers and broken hearts, are the offerings which are paid to them. Their ſmiles make men happy; their frowns drive them to deſpair. I ſhall only add under this head, that Ovid's book of the Art of Love is a kind of heathen ritual, which contains all the forms of worſhip which are made uſe of to an Idol.

It would be as difficult a taſk to reckon up theſe different kinds of Idols as Milton's was to number thoſe that were known in Canaan, and the lands adjoining. Moſt of them are worſhipped, like Moloch, in fire and flames. Some of them, like Baal, love to ſee their votaries cut and ſlaſhed, and ſhedding their blood for them like the Idol in the Apocrypha, muſt have treats and collations prepared for them every night. It has indeed been known, that ſome of them have been uſed by their incenſed worſhippers like the Chineſe Idols, who are whipped and ſcourged when they refuſe to comply with the prayers that are offered to them.

I muſt here obſerve, that thoſe idolaters, who devote themſelves to the Idols I am here ſpeaking of, differ very much from all other kinds of idolaters. For as others fall out becauſe they worſhip different Idols, theſe idolaters quarrel becauſe they worſhip the ſame.

The intention, therefore, of the Idol is quite contrary to the wiſhes of the idolater: as the one deſires to confine the Idol to himſelf, the whole buſineſs and ambition of the other is to multiply adorers. This humour of an Idol is prettily deſcribed in a tale of Chaucer: he repreſents one of them ſitting at a table with three of her votaries about her, who are all of them courting her favour, and paying their adorations: ſhe ſmiled upon one, drank to another, and trod upon the other's foot which was under the table. 'Now which of thoſe 'three,' ſays the old bard, 'do you 'think was the favourite?—In troth,' ſays he, 'not one of all the three.'

The behaviour of this old Idol in Chaucer, puts me in mind of the beautiful Clarinda, one of the greateſt Idols among the moderns. She is worſhipped once a week by candlelight, in the midſt of a large congregation, generally called an aſſembly. Some of the gayeſt youths in the nation endeavour to plant themſelves in her eye, while ſhe ſits in form with multitudes of tapers burning about her. To encourage the zeal of idolaters, ſhe beſtows a mark of her favour upon every one of them, before they go out of her preſence. She aſks a queſtion of one, tells a ſtory to another, glances an ogle upon a third, takes a pinch of ſnuff from the fourth, lets her fan drop by accident to give the fifth an occaſion of taking it up. In ſhort, every one goes away ſatisfied with his ſucceſs, and encouraged to renew his devotions on the ſame canonical hour that day ſevennight.

An idol may be undeified by many accidental cauſes. Marriage in particular is a kind of Counter-Apotheoſis,

or

or deification inverted. When a man becomes familiar with his goddeſs, ſhe quickly ſinks into a woman.

Old age is likewiſe a great decayer of your Idol. The truth of it is, there is not a more unhappy being than a ſuper-annuated Idol, eſpecially when ſhe has contracted ſuch airs and behaviour as are only graceful when her worſhippers are about her.

Conſidering, therefore, that in theſe and many other caſes the Woman generally outlives the Idol; I muſt return to the moral of this paper, and deſire my fair readers to give a proper direction to their paſſion for being admired; in order to which, they muſt endeavour to make themſelves the objects of a reaſonable and laſting admiration. This is not to be hoped for from beauty, or dreſs, or faſhion, but from thoſe inward ornaments which are not to be defaced by time or ſickneſs, and which appear moſt amiable to thoſe who are moſt acquainted with them.

C

N° LXXIV. FRIDAY, MAY 25.

——PENDENT OPERA INTERRUPTA——

VIRG. ÆN. IV. 88.

THE WORKS UNFINISH'D AND NEGLECTED LIE.

IN my laſt Monday's paper I gave ſome general inſtances of thoſe beautiful ſtrokes which pleaſe the reader in the old ſong of Chevy-Chaſe: I ſhall here, according to my promiſe, be more particular, and ſhew that the ſentiments in that ballad are extremely natural and poetical, and full of that majeſtic ſimplicity which we admire in the greateſt of the ancient poets: for which reaſon I ſhall quote ſeveral paſſages of it, in which the thought is altogether the ſame with what we meet in ſeveral paſſages of the Æneid; not that I would infer from thence, that the poet, whoever he was, propoſed to himſelf any imitation of thoſe paſſages, but that he was directed to them in general by the ſame kind of poetical genius, and by the ſame copyings after nature.

Had this old ſong been filled with epigrammatical turns and points of wit, it might perhaps have pleaſed the wrong taſte of ſome readers; but it would never have become the delight of the common people, nor have warmed the heart of Sir Philip Sidney like the ſound of a trumpet; it is only nature that can have this effect, and pleaſe thoſe taſtes which are the moſt unprejudiced or the moſt refined. I muſt however beg leave to diſſent from ſo great an authority as that of Sir Philip Sidney, in the judgment which he has paſſed as to the rude ſtile and evil apparel of this antiquated ſong; for there are ſeveral parts in it where not only the thought but the language is majeſtic, and the numbers ſonorous; at leaſt, the apparel is much more gorgeous than many of the poets made uſe of in Queen Elizabeth's time, as the reader will ſee in ſeveral of the following quotations.

What can be greater than either the thought or the expreſſion in that ſtanza—

To drive the deer with hound and horn
Earl Piercy took his way;
The child may rue that was unborn
The hunting of that day!

This way of conſidering the misfortunes which this battle would bring upon poſterity, not only on thoſe who were born immediately after the battle, and loſt their fathers in it, but on thoſe alſo who periſhed in future battles which took their riſe from this quarrel of the two Earls, is wonderfully beautiful, and conformable to the way of thinking among the ancient poets,

Audiet pugnas, vitio parentum
Rara juventus.

HOR. OD. I. 11. 23.

Poſterity, thinn'd by their fathers crimes,
Shall read, with grief, the ſtory of their times.

What can be more ſounding and poetical, or reſemble more the majeſtic ſimplicity of the ancients, than the following ſtanzas!

The ſtout earl of Northumberland
A vow to God did make,
His pleaſure in the Scotiſh woods
Three ſummers days to take,

With fifteen hundred bowmen bold,
All chosen men of might,
Who knew full well, in time of need,
To aim their shafts aright.

The hounds ran swiftly through the woods,
The nimble deer to take,
And with their cries the hills and dales
An echo shrill did make.

——*Vocat ingenti clamore Cithæron*
Taygetique canes, domitrixque Epidaurus equorum:
Et vox assensu nemorum ingeminata remugit.
GEORG. III. 43,

Cithæron loudly calls me to my way;
The hounds, Taygetus, open, and pursue the prey:
High Epidaurus urges on my speed,
Fam'd for his hills, and for his horses breed:
From hills and dales the chearful cries rebound;
For echo hunts along, and propagates the sound. DRYDEN.

Lo, yonder doth Earl Douglas come,
His men in armour bright;
Full twenty hundred Scotish spears,
All marching in our sight.

All men of pleasant Tividale,
Fast by the river Tweed, &c.

The country of the Scotch warriors, described in these two last verses, has a fine romantic situation, and affords a couple of smooth words for verse. If the reader compares the foregoing six lines of the song with the following Latin verses, he will see how much they are written in the spirit of Virgil.

Adversi campo apparent, hastasque reductis
Protendunt longè dextris; et spicula vibrant——
Quique altum Præneste viri, quique arva Gabinæ
Junonis, gelidumque Anienem, et roscida rivis
Hernica saxa colunt:——qui rosea rura Velini,
Qui Tetricæ horrentes rupes, montemque Severum,
Casperiamque colunt, Foruloque et flumen Himellæ:
Qui Tiberim Fabarimque bibunt——
ÆN. XI. 605—7. 682. 712.

Advancing in a line, they couch their spears——
——Præneste sends a chosen band,
With those who plow Saturnia's Gabine land;
Besides the succours which cold Anien yields;
The rocks of Hernicus—besides a band,
That follow'd from Velinum's dewy land——
And mountaineers that from Severus came;
And from the craggy cliffs of Tetrica;
And those where yellow Tiber takes his way,
And where Himella's wanton waters play;
Casperia sends her arms, with those that lie
By Fabaris, and fruitful Foruli.
DRYDEN.

But to proceed.

Earl Douglas on a milk-white steed,
Most like a baron bold,
Rode foremost of the company,
Whose armour shone like gold.

Ternus ut antevolans tardum præcesserat agmen,
&c.
Vidisti, quo Turnus equo, quibus ibat in armis
Aureus——

Our English archers bent their bows,
Their hearts were good and true;
At the first flight of arrows sent,
Full threescore Scots they slew.

They clos'd full fast on ev'ry side,
No slackness there was found;
And many a gallant gentleman
Lay gasping on the ground.

With that there came an arrow keen
Out of an English bow,
Which struck Earl Douglas to the heart
A deep and deadly blow.

Æneas was wounded after the same manner by an unknown hand in the midst of a parley.

Has inter voces, media inter talia verba,
Ecce viro stridens alis allapsa sagitta est,
Incertum quâ pulsa manu——
EN. XII. 318.

Thus while he spake, unmindful of defence,
A winged arrow struck the pious prince:
But whether from an human hand it came,
Or hostile God, is left unknown to fame.
DRYDEN.

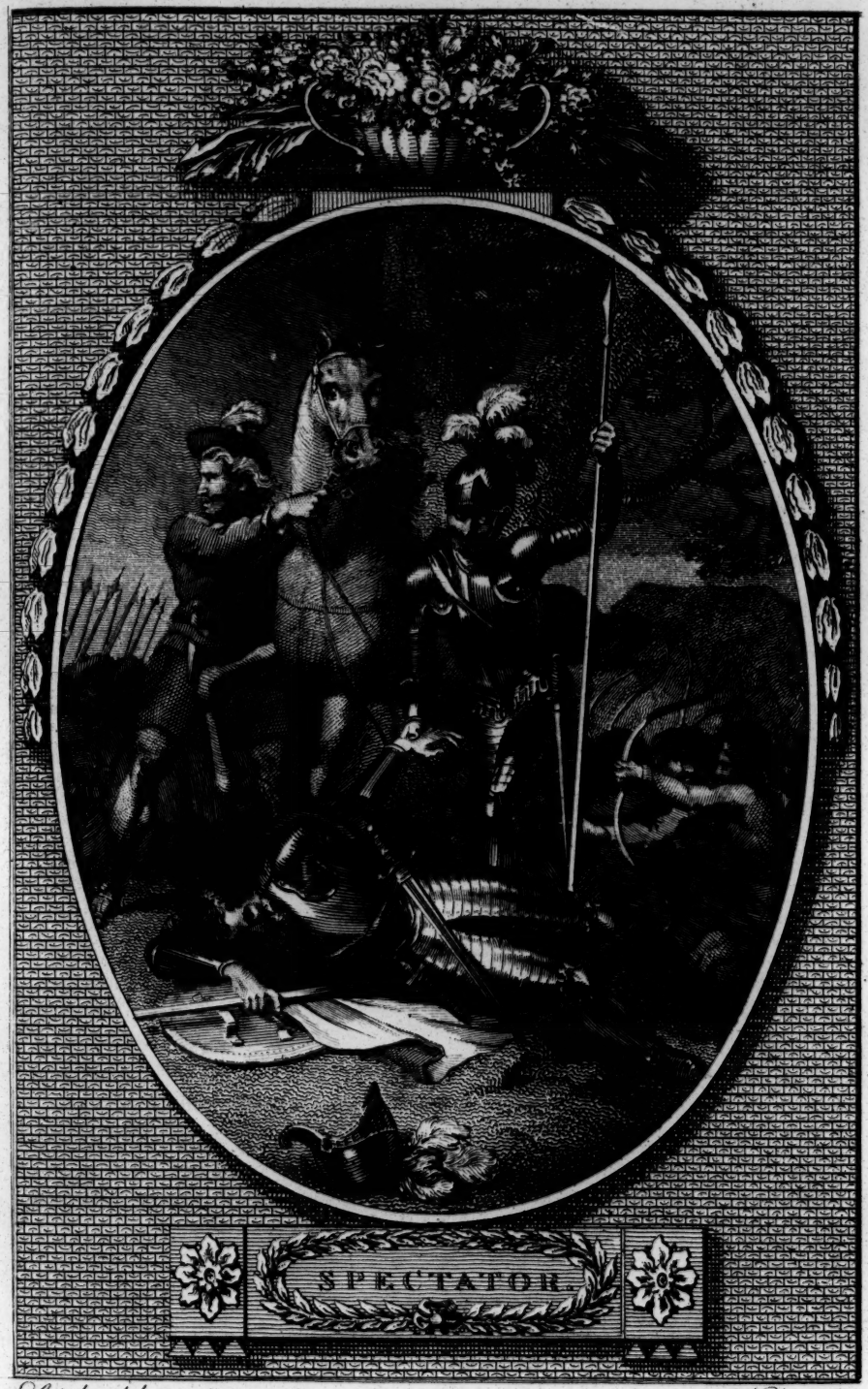
But of all the descriptive parts of this song, there are none more beautiful than the four following stanzas, which have a great force and spirit in them, and are filled with very natural circumstances. The thought in the third stanza was never touched by any other poet, and is such an one as would have shined in Homer or Virgil.

So thus did both those nobles die,
Whose courage none could stain;
An English archer then perceiv'd
The noble earl was slain.

He had a bow bent in his hand,
Made of a trusty tree,
An arrow of a cloth-yard long
Unto the head drew he.

Against Sir Hugh Montgomery
So right his shaft he set,
The gray-goose wing that was thereon
In his heart-blood was wet.

This



Smirke del. *Walker sculp.*

Plate XXX.

Published as the Act directs, by Harrison & Co. July 15, 1786.

This fight did laſt from break of day
Till ſetting of the ſun;
For when they rung the ev'ning bell
The battle ſcarce was done.

One may obſerve likewiſe, that in the catalogue of the ſlain, the author has followed the example of the greateſt ancient poet, not only in giving a long liſt of the dead, but by diverſifying it with little characters of particular perſons.

And with Earl Douglas there was ſlain
Sir Hugh Montgomery,
Sir Charles Carrel, that from the field
One foot would never fly:

Sir Charles Murrel of Ratcliff too,
His ſiſter's ſon was he;
Sir David Lamb, ſo well eſteem'd,
Yet ſaved could not be.

The familiar ſound in theſe names deſtroys the majeſty of the deſcription; for this reaſon I do not mention this part of the poem but to ſhew the natural caſt of thought which appears in it, as the two laſt verſes look almoſt like a tranſlation of Virgil.

—Cadit et Ripheus, juſtiſſimus unus
Qui fuit in Teucris, et ſervantiſſimus æqui.
Dis aliter viſum——

ÆN. II. 426.

Then Ripheus fell in the unequal fight,
Juſt of his word, obſervant of the right:
Heav'n thought not ſo.

DRYDEN.

In the catalogue of the Engliſh who fell, Witherington's behaviour is in the ſame manner particularized very artfully, as the reader is prepared for it by that account which is given of him in the beginning of the battle; though I am ſatisfied your little buffoon readers, who have ſeen that paſſage ridiculed in Hudibras, will not be able to take the beauty of it: for which reaſon I dare not ſo much as quote it.

Then ſtept a gallant ſquire forth,
Witherington was his name,
Who ſaid—'I would not have it told
'To Henry our king for ſhame,
'That e'er my captain fought on foot
'And I ſtood looking on.'

We meet with the ſame heroic ſentiments in Virgil:

Non pudet, O Rutuli, cunctis pro talibus unam
Objectare animam? numerone an viribus æqui
Non ſumas——?

ÆN. XII. 229.

For ſhame, Rutilians, can you bear the ſight
Of one expos'd for all, in ſingle fight?
Can we, before the face of Heav'n, confeſs
Our courage colder, or our numbers leſs?

DRYDEN.

What can be more natural or more moving, than the circumſtances in which he deſcribes the behaviour of thoſe women who had loſt their huſbands on this fatal day?

Next day did many widows come
Their huſbands to bewail;
They waſh'd their wounds in briniſh tears,
But all would not prevail.

Their bodies bath'd in purple blood,
They bore with them away;
They kiſs'd them dead a thouſand times,
When they were clad in clay.

Thus we ſee how the thoughts of this poem, which naturally ariſe from the ſubject, are always ſimple, and ſometimes exquiſitely noble; that the language is often very ſounding; and that the whole is written with a true poetical ſpirit.

If this ſong had been written in the Gothick manner, which is the delight of all our little wits, whether writers or readers, it would not have hit the taſte of ſo many ages, and have pleaſed the readers of all ranks and conditions. I ſhall only beg pardon for ſuch a profuſion of Latin quotations; which I ſhould not have made uſe of but that I feared my own judgment would have looked too ſingular on ſuch a ſubject, had not I ſupported it by the practice and authority of Virgil. C

N° LXXV. SATURDAY, MAY 26.

OMNIS ARISTIPPUM DECUIT COLOR, ET STATUS, ET RES.
HOR. EP. I. XVII. 23.

ALL FORTUNE FITTED ARISTIPPUS WELL. CREECH.

IT was with ſome mortification that I ſuffered the raillery of a fine lady of my acquaintance, for calling, in one of my papers, Dorimant a clown. She was ſo unmerciful as to take advantage of my invincible taciturnity, and on that occaſion, with great freedom to conſider the air, the height, the face, the geſture, of him who could pretend to judge ſo arrogantly of gallantry. She is full of motion, janty, and lively in her impertinence, and one of thoſe that commonly paſs, among the ignorant, for perſons who have a great deal of humour. She had the play of Sir Fopling in her hand, and after ſhe had ſaid it was happy for her there was not ſo charming a creature as Dorimant now living, ſhe began with a theatrical air and tone of voice to read, by way of triumph over me, ſome of his ſpeeches.—'Tis ſhe, that lovely 'air, that eaſy ſhape, thoſe wanton eyes, 'and all thoſe melting charms about 'her mouth, which Medley ſpoke of; 'I'll follow the lottery, and put in for 'a prize with my friend Bellair.

In love the victors from the vanquiſh'd fly;
They fly that wound, and they purſue that die.

Then turning over the leaves, ſhe reads alternately, and ſpeaks—

And you and Loveit to her coſt ſhall find
I fathom all the depths of womankind.

'Oh the fine gentleman! But here,' continues ſhe, 'is the paſſage I admire 'moſt, where he begins to teize Loveit, 'and mimick Sir Fopling: Oh the 'pretty ſatire, in his reſolving to be a 'coxcomb to pleaſe, ſince noiſe and 'nonſenſe have ſuch powerful charms.

I, that I may ſucceſsful prove,
Transform myſelf to what you love.

'Then how like a man of the town, ſo 'wild and gay is that—

The wiſe will find a diff'rence in our fate,
You wed a woman, I a good eſtate.

It would have been a very wild endeavour for a man of my temper to offer any oppoſition to ſo nimble a ſpeaker as my fair enemy is; but her diſcourſe gave me very many reflections, when I had left her company. Among others, I could not but conſider, with ſome attention, the falſe impreſſions the generality, the fair-ſex more eſpecially, have of what ſhould be intended, when they ſay a fine gentleman; and could not help revolving that ſubject in my thoughts, and ſettling, as it were, an idea of that character in my own imagination.

No man ought to have the eſteem of the reſt of the world, for any actions which are diſagreeable to thoſe maxims which prevail, as the ſtandards of behaviour, in the country wherein he lives. What is oppoſite to the eternal rules of reaſon and good ſenſe, muſt be excluded from any place in the carriage of a well-bred man. I did not, I confeſs, explain myſelf enough on this ſubject, when I called Dorimant a clown, and made it an inſtance of it, that he called 'Orange Wench, Double Tripe:' I ſhould have ſhewed, that humanity obliges a gentleman to give no part of humankind reproach, for what they, whom they reproach, may poſſibly have in common with the moſt virtuous and worthy among us. When a gentleman ſpeaks coarſely, he has dreſſed himſelf clean to no purpoſe: the cloathing of our minds certainly ought to be regarded before that of our bodies. To betray in a man's talk a corrupted imagination, is a much greater offence againſt the converſation of a gentleman, than any negligence of dreſs imaginable. But this ſenſe of the matter is ſo far from being received among people even of condition, that Vocifer paſſes for a fine gentleman. He is loud, haughty, gentle, ſoft, lewd, and obſequious, by turns, juſt as a little underſtanding and great impudence prompt him at the preſent moment. He paſſes among the ſilly part

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of our women for a man of wit, because he is generally in doubt. He contradicts with a shrug, and confutes with a certain sufficiency, in professing such and such a thing is above his capacity. What makes his character the pleasanter is, that he is a professed deluder of women; and because the empty coxcomb has no regard to any thing that is of itself sacred and inviolable, I have heard an unmarried lady of fortune say, it is pity so fine a gentleman as Vocifer, is so great an Atheist. The crowds of such inconsiderable creatures, that infest all places of assembling, every reader will have in his eye from his own observation; but would it not be worth considering what sort of figure a man who formed himself upon those principles among us, which are agreeable to the dictates of honour and religion, would make in the familiar and ordinary occurrences of life?

I hardly have observed any one fill his several duties of life better than Ignotus. All the under parts of his behaviour, and such as are exposed to common observation, have their rise in him from great and noble motives. A firm and unshaken expectation of another life makes him become this. Humanity and good-nature, fortified by the sense of virtue, has the same effect upon him, as the neglect of all goodness has upon many others. Being firmly established in all matters of importance, that certain inattention which makes men's actions look easy appears in him with greater beauty: by a thorough contempt of little excellencies, he is perfectly master of them. This temper of mind leaves him under no necessity of studying his air, and he has this peculiar distinction, that his negligence is unaffected.

He that can work himself into a pleasure in considering this being as an uncertain one, and think to reap an advantage by it's discontinuance, is in a fair way of doing all things with a graceful unconcern, and gentleman-like ease. Such a one does not behold his life as a short, transient, perplexing state, made up of trifling pleasures, and great anxieties; but sees it in quite another light: his griefs are momentary, and his joys immortal. Reflection upon death is not a gloomy and sad thought of resigning everything that he delights in, but it is a short night followed by an endless day. What I would here contend for is, that the more virtuous the man is, the nearer he will naturally be to the character of genteel and agreeable. A man whose fortune is plentiful, shews an ease in his countenance, and confidence in his behaviour, which he that is under wants and difficulties cannot assume. It it thus with the state of the mind; he that governs his thoughts with the everlasting rules of reason and sense, must have something so inexpressibly graceful in his words and actions, that every circumstance must become him. The change of persons or things around him do not alter his situation, but he looks disinterested in the occurrences with which others are distracted, because the greatest purpose of his life is to maintain an indifference both to it and all it's enjoyments. In a word, to be a fine gentleman is to be a generous and a brave man. What can make a man so much in constant good-humour, and shine, as we call it, than to be supported by what can never fail him, and to believe that whatever happens to him was the best thing that could possibly befall him, or else he on whom it depends would not have permitted it to have befallen him at all?

R

N° LXXVI. MONDAY, MAY 28.

UT TU FORTUNAM, SIC NOS TE, CELSE, FEREMUS.
HOR. EP. I. VIII. 17.

AS YOU YOUR FORTUNE BEAR, WE WILL BEAR YOU. CREECH.

THERE is nothing so common, as to find a man whom in the general observation of his carriage you take to be of an uniform temper, subject to such unaccountable starts of humour and passion, that he is as much unlike himself, and differs as much from the man you at first thought him, as any two distinct persons can differ from each other. This proceeds from the want of forming some law

law of life to ourſelves, or fixing ſome notion of things in general, which may affect us in ſuch manner as to create proper habits both in our minds and bodies. The negligence of this leaves us expoſed not only to an uncommon levity in our uſual converſation, but alſo to the ſame inſtability in our friendſhips, intereſts, and alliances. A man who is but a mere ſpectator of what paſſes around him, and not engaged in commerces of any conſideration, is but an ill judge of the ſecret motions of the heart of man, and by what degrees it is actuated to make ſuch viſible alterations in the ſame perſon: but at the ſame time, when a man is no way concerned in the effect of ſuch inconſiſtencies in the behaviour of men of the world, the ſpeculation muſt be in the utmoſt degree both diverting and inſtructive; yet to enjoy ſuch obſervations in the higheſt reliſh, he ought to be placed in a poſt of direction, and have the dealing of their fortunes to them. I have therefore been wonderfully diverted with ſome pieces of ſecret hiſtory, which an antiquary, my very good friend, lent me as a curioſity. They are the memoirs of the private life of Pharamond of France. 'Pharamond,' ſays my author, 'was a 'prince of infinite humanity and 'generoſity, and at the ſame time the moſt 'pleaſant and facetious companion of 'his time. He had a peculiar taſte in 'him, which would have been unlucky 'in any prince but himſelf; he thought 'there could be no exquiſite pleaſure in 'converſation but among equals; and 'would pleaſantly bewail himſelf that 'he always lived in a crowd, but was 'the only man in France that never 'could get into company. This turn of 'mind made him delight in midnight 'rambles, attended only with one per'ſon of his bed-chamber: he would in 'theſe excurſions get acquainted with 'men, whoſe temper he had a mind to 'try, and recommend them privately 'to the particular obſervation of his firſt 'miniſter. He generally found himſelf 'neglected by his new acquaintance as 'ſoon as they had hopes of growing 'great; and uſed on ſuch occaſions to 'remark, that it was a great injuſtice 'to tax princes of forgetting themſelves 'in their high fortunes, when there were 'ſo few that could with conſtancy bear 'the favour of their very creatures.' My author in theſe looſe hints has one paſſage that gives us a very lively idea of the uncommon genius of Pharamond. He met with one man whom he had put to all the uſual proofs he made of thoſe he had a mind to know thoroughly, and found him for his purpoſe: in diſcourſe with him one day, he gave him opportunity of ſaying how much would ſatisfy all his wiſhes. The prince immediately revealed himſelf, doubled the ſum, and ſpoke to him in this manner. 'Sir, 'you have twice what you deſired, by 'the favour of Pharmond; but look 'to it, that you are ſatisfied with it, 'for 'tis the laſt you ſhall ever receive. 'I from this moment conſider you as 'mine; and to make you truly ſo, I 'give you my royal word you ſhall 'never be greater or leſs than you are 'at preſent. Anſwer me not,' concluded the prince, ſmiling, 'but enjoy 'the fortune I have put you in, which 'is above my own condition; for you 'have hereafter nothing to hope or to 'fear.'

His majeſty having thus well choſen and bought a friend and companion, he enjoyed alternately all the pleaſures of an agreeable private man and a great and powerful monarch: he gave himſelf, with his companion, the name of the merry tyrant; for he puniſhed his courtiers for their inſolence and folly, not by any act of public diſfavour, but by humourouſly practiſing upon their imaginations. If he obſerved a man untractable to his inferiors, he would find an opportunity to take ſome favourable notice of him, and render him inſupportable. He knew all his own looks, words, and actions, had their interpretations; and his friend Monſieur Eucrate, for ſo he was called, having a great ſoul without ambition, he could communicate all his thoughts to him, and fear no artful uſe would be made of that freedom. It was no ſmall delight when they were in private to reflect upon all which had paſſed in public.

Pharamond would often, to ſatisfy a vain fool of power in his country, talk to him in a full court, and with one whiſper make him deſpiſe all his old friends and acquaintance. He was come to that knowledge of men by long obſervation, that he would profeſs altering the whole maſs of blood in ſome tempers by thrice ſpeaking to them. As fortune was in his power, he gave himſelf conſtant entertainment in managing

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the mere followers of it with the treatment they deſerved. He would by a ſkilful caſt of his eye and half a ſmile, make two fellows who hated, embrace and fall upon each other's neck with as much eagerneſs, as if they followed their real inclinations, and intended to ſtifle one another. When he was in high good-humour, he would lay the ſcene with Eucrate, and on a public night exerciſe the paſſions of his whole court. He was pleaſed to ſee an haughty beauty watch the looks of the man ſhe had long deſpiſed, from obſervation of his being taken notice of by Pharamond; and the lover conceive higher hopes, than to follow the woman he was dying for the day before. In a court, where men ſpeak affection in the ſtrongeſt terms, and diſlike in the fainteſt, it was a comical mixture of incidents to ſee diſguiſes thrown aſide in one caſe and increaſed on the other, according as favour or diſgrace attended the reſpective objects of men's approbation or diſeſteem. Pharamond, in his mirth upon the meanneſs of mankind, uſed to ſay, as he could take away a man's five ſenſes, he could give him an hundred. The man in diſgrace ſhall immediately loſe all his natural endowments, and he that finds favour have the attributes of an angel. He would carry it ſo far as to ſay, it ſhould not be only ſo in the opinion of the lower part of his court, but the men themſelves ſhall think thus meanly or greatly of themſelves, as they are out, or in, the good graces of a court.

A monarch, who had wit and humour like Pharamond, muſt have pleaſures which no man elſe can ever have an opportunity of enjoying. He gave fortune to none but thoſe whom he knew could receive it without tranſport: he made a noble and generous uſe of his obſervations; and did not regard his miniſters as they were agreeable to himſelf, but as they were uſeful to his kingdom: by this means the king appeared in every officer of ſtate; and no man had a participation of the power, who had not a ſimilitude of the virtue of Pharamond. R

N° LXXVII. TUESDAY, MAY 29.

NON CONVIVERE LICET, NEC URBE TOTA
QUISQUAM EST TAM PROPE TAM PROCULQUE NOBIS.
MART. EPIG. LXXXVI I. I.

WHAT CORRESPONDENCE CAN I HOLD WITH YOU,
WHO ARE SO NEAR, AND YET SO DISTANT TOO?

MY friend Will. Honeycomb is one of thoſe ſort of men who are very often abſent in converſation, and what the French call a *reveur* and a *diſtrait*. A little before our club-time laſt night we were walking together in Somerſet garden, where Will. had picked up a ſmall pebble of ſo odd a make, that he ſaid he would preſent it to a friend of his, an eminent virtuoſo. After we had walked ſometime, I made a full ſtop with my face towards the weſt, which Will. knowing to be my uſual method of aſking what's o'clock, in an afternoon, immediately pulled out his watch, and told me we had ſeven minutes good. We took a turn or two more, when to my great ſurpriſe, I ſaw him ſquir away his watch a conſiderable way into the Thames, and with great ſedateneſs in his looks put up the pebble, he had before found, in his fob. As I have naturally an averſion to much ſpeaking, and do not love to be the meſſenger of ill news, eſpecially when it comes too late to be uſeful, I left him to be convinced of his miſtake in due time, and continued my walk, reflecting on theſe little abſences and diſtractions in mankind, and reſolving to make them the ſubject of a future ſpeculation.

I was the more confirmed in my deſign, when I conſidered that they were very often blemiſhes in the characters of men of excellent ſenſe; and helped to keep up the reputation of that Latin proverb, which Mr. Dryden has tranſlated in the following lines:

Great wit to madneſs ſure is near ally'd,
And thin partitions do their bounds divide.

My reader does, I hope, perceive, that I diſtinguiſh a man who is abſent, becauſe he thinks of ſomething

elſe, from one who is abſent, becauſe he thinks of nothing at all: the latter is too innocent a creature to be taken notice of; but the diſtractions of the former may, I believe, be generally accounted for from one of theſe reaſons.

Either their minds are wholly fixed on ſome particular ſcience, which is often the caſe of mathematicians and other learned men; or are wholly taken up with ſome violent paſſion, ſuch as anger, fear, or love, which ties the mind to ſome diſtant object; or, laſtly, theſe diſtractions proceed from a certain vivacity and fickleneſs in a man's temper, which while it raiſes up infinite numbers of ideas in the mind, is continually puſhing it on, without allowing it to reſt on any particular image. Nothing therefore is more unnatural than the thoughts and conceptions of ſuch a man, which are ſeldom occaſioned either by the company he is in, or any of thoſe objects which are placed before him. While you fancy he is admiring a beautiful woman, it is an even wager that he is ſolving a propoſition in Euclid; and while you may imagine he is reading the Paris Gazette, it is far from being impoſſible, that he is pulling down and rebuilding the front of his country-houſe.

At the ſame time that I am endeavouring to expoſe this weakneſs in others, I ſhall readily confeſs that I once laboured under the ſame infirmity myſelf.

The method I took to conquer it was a firm reſolution to learn ſomething from whatever I was obliged to ſee or hear. There is a way of thinking, if a man can attain to it, by which he may ſtrike ſomewhat out of any thing. I can at preſent obſerve thoſe ſtarts of good ſenſe and ſtruggles of unimproved reaſon in the converſation of a clown, with as much ſatisfaction as the moſt ſhining periods of the moſt finiſhed orator; and can make a ſhift to command my attention at a Puppet-ſhow or an Opera, as well as at Hamlet or Othello. I always make one of the company I am in; for though I ſay little myſelf, my attention to others, and thoſe nods of approbation which I never beſtow unmerited, ſufficiently ſhew that I am among them. Whereas Will. Honeycomb, though a fellow of good ſenſe, is every day doing and ſaying an hundred things which he afterwards confeſſes, with a well-bred frankneſs, were ſomewhat *mal à propos*, and undeſigned.

I chanced the other day to go into a coffee-houſe, where Will. was ſtanding in the midſt of ſeveral auditors whom he had gathered round him, and was giving them an account of the perſon and character of Moll Hinton. My appearance before him juſt put him in mind of me, without making him reflect that I was actually preſent. So that keeping his eyes full upon me, to the great ſurpriſe of his audience, he broke off his firſt harangue, and proceeded thus—'Why 'now there's my friend,' mentioning me by name, 'he is a fellow that thinks a 'great deal, but never opens his mouth; 'I warrant you he is now thruſting his 'ſhort face into ſome coffee-houſe about 'Change. I was his bail in the time 'of the Popiſh-plot, when he was taken 'up for a Jeſuit.' If he had looked on me a little longer, he had certainly deſcribed me ſo particularly, without ever conſidering what led him into it, that the whole company muſt neceſſarily have found me out; for which reaſon, remembering the old proverb—'Out of 'ſight out of mind,' I left the room; and upon meeting him an hour afterwards, was aſked by him, with a great deal of good-humour, in what part of the world I had lived, that he had not ſeen me theſe three days.

Monſieur Bruyere has given us the character of an Abſent Man, with a great deal of humour, which he has puſhed to an agreeable extravagance; with the heads of it I ſhall conclude my preſent paper.

'Menalcas,' ſays that excellent author, 'comes down in a morning, opens 'his door to go out, but ſhuts it again, 'becauſe he perceives that he has his 'night-cap on; and examining himſelf 'further finds that he is but half-ſhaved, 'that he has ſtuck his ſword on his right 'ſide, that his ſtockings are about his 'heels, and that his ſhirt is over his 'breeches. When he is dreſſed, he 'goes to court, comes in the drawing-'room, and walking bolt-upright un-'der a branch of candleſticks, his wig 'is caught up by one of them, and 'hangs dangling in the air. All the 'courtiers fall a laughing, but Menal-'cas laughs louder than any of them, 'and looks about for the perſon that is 'the jeſt of the company. Coming

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'down to the court-gate he finds a 'coach, which taking for his own, he 'whips into it; and the coachman drives 'off, not doubting but he carries his 'maſter. As ſoon as he ſtops, Me-'nalcas throws himſelf out of the coach, 'croſſes the court, aſcends the ſtair-'caſe, and runs through all the cham-'bers with the greateſt familiarity, re-'poſes himſelf on a couch, and fancies 'himſelf at home. The maſter of the 'houſe at laſt comes in, Maneclas riſes 'to receive him, and deſires him to ſit 'down; he talks, muſes, and then 'talks again. The gentleman of the 'houſe is tired and amazed; Menaclas 'is no leſs ſo, but is every moment in 'hopes that his impertinent gueſt will 'at laſt end his tedious viſit. Night 'comes on, when Menalcas is hardly 'undeceived.

'When he is playing at backgam-'mon, he calls for a full glaſs of wine 'and water; 'tis his turn to throw, he 'has the box in one hand, and his glaſs 'in the other, and being extremely dry, 'and unwilling to loſe time, he ſwal-'lows down both the dice, and at the 'ſame time throws his wine into the 'tables. He writes a letter, and flings 'the ſand into the ink-bottle; he writes 'a ſecond, and miſtakes the ſuperſcrip-'tion: a nobleman receives one of them, 'and upon opening it reads as follows: "I would have you, honeſt Jack, im-"mediately upon the receipt of this, "take in hay enough to ſerve me the "winter." His farmer receives the 'other, and is amazed to ſee in it— "My Lord, I received your Grace's "commands with an entire ſubmiſſion "to—" If he is at an entertaiment, 'you may ſee the pieces of bread con-'tinually multiplying round his plate: 'tis true the reſt of the company want 'it, as well as their knives and forks, 'which Menalcas does not let them 'keep long. Sometimes in a morning 'he puts his whole family in an hurry, 'and at laſt goes out without being able 'to ſtay for his coach or dinner, and 'for that day you may ſee him in every 'part of the town, except the very 'place where he had appointed to be 'upon a buſineſs of importance. You 'would often take him for every thing 'that he is not; for a fellow quite ſtupid, 'for he hears nothing; for a fool, for 'he talks to himſelf, and has an hun-'dred grimaces and motions with his 'head, which are altogether involun-'tary; for a proud man, for he looks 'full upon you, and takes no notice of 'your ſaluting him; the truth on't is, 'his eyes are open, but he makes no 'uſe of them, and neither ſees you, nor 'any man, nor any thing elſe: he came 'once from his country-houſe, and his 'own footman undertook to rob him, 'and ſucceeded: they held a flambeau 'to his throat, and bid him deliver his 'purſe; he did ſo, and coming home 'told his friends he had been robbed; 'they deſired to know the particulars "—Aſk my ſervants," ſays Menalcas, "for they were with me." X

N° LXXVIII. WEDNESDAY, MAY 30.

CUM TALIS SIS, UTINAM NOSTER ESSES!

COLD WE BUT CALL SO GREAT A GENIUS OURS!

THE following letters are ſo pleaſant, that I doubt not but the reader will be as much diverted with them as I was. I have nothing to do in this day's entertainment, but taking the ſentence from the end of the Cambridge letter, and placing it at the front of my paper; to ſhew the author I wiſh him my companion with as much earneſtneſs as he invites me to be his.

SIR,

I Send you the incloſed, to be inſerted, if you think them worthy of it, in your Spectators; in which ſo ſurpriſing a genius appears, that it is no wonder if all mankind endeavours to get ſomewhat into a paper which will always live.

As to the Cambridge affair, the humour was really carried on the way I deſcribe it. However, you have a full commiſſion to put out or in, and to do whatever you think fit with it. I have already had the ſatisfaction of ſeeing you take that liberty, with ſome things I have before ſent you.

Go on, Sir, and proſper. You have the beſt wiſhes of, Sir,

You very affectionate
and obliged humble ſervant.

MR. SPECTATOR, CAMBRIDGE.

YOU well know it is of great conſequence to clear titles, and it is of importance that it be done in the proper ſeaſon: on which account this is to aſſure you, that the Club of Ugly Faces was inſtituted originally at Cambridge in the merry reign of King Charles II. As in great bodies of men it is not difficult to find members enough for ſuch a club, ſo, I remember, it was then feared, upon their intention of dining together, that the hall belonging to Clare Hall, the ugliеſt then in the town, though now the neateſt, would not be large enough handſomely to hold the company. Invitations were made to great numbers, but very few accepted them without much difficulty. *One* pleaded that being at London in a bookſeller's ſhop, a lady going by with a great belly longed to kiſs him. He had certainly been excuſed, but that evidence appeared, that indeed one in London did pretend ſhe longed to kiſs him, but that it was only a Pickpocket, who during his kiſſing her ſtole away all his money. *Another* would have got off by a dimple in his chin; but it was proved upon him, that he had, by coming into a room, made a woman miſcarry, and frightened two children into fits. *A third* alledged, that he was taken by a lady for another gentleman, who was one of the handſomeſt in the univerſity; but upon enquiry it was found that the lady had actually loſt one eye, and the other was very much upon the decline. *A fourth* produced letters out of the country in his vindication, in which a gentleman offered him his daughter, who had lately fallen in love with him, with a good fortune: but it was made appear that the young lady was amorous, and had like to have run away with her father's coachman, ſo that it was ſuppoſed, that her pretence of falling in love with him was only in order to be well married. It was pleaſant to hear the ſeveral excuſes which were made, inſomuch that ſome made as much intereſt to be excuſed as they would from ſerving ſheriff; however, at laſt the ſociety was formed, and proper officers were appointed: and the day was fixed for the entertainment, which was in Veniſon Seaſon. A pleaſant fellow of King's College, commonly called Crab from his ſour look, and the only man who did not pretend to get off, was nominated for chaplain; and nothing was wanting, but ſome one to ſit in the elbow-chair, by way of Preſident, at the upper end of the table; and there the buſineſs ſtuck, for there was no contention for ſuperiority there. This affair made ſo great a noiſe, that the King, who was then at Newmarket, heard of it, and was pleaſed merrily and graciouſly to ſay, He could not be there himſelf, but he would ſend them a brace of bucks.

I would deſire you, Sir, to ſet this affair in a true light, that poſterity may not be miſled in ſo important a point: for when 'the wiſe man who ſhall write 'your true hiſtory' ſhall acquaint the world, that you had a Diploma ſent from the Ugly Club at Oxford, and that by virtue of it you were admitted into it, what a learned work will there be among future critics about the original of that club, which both univerſities will contend ſo warmly for! And perhaps ſome hardy Cantabrigian author may then boldly affirm, that the word Oxford was an interpolation of ſome Oxonian inſtead of Cambridge. This affair will be beſt adjuſted in your lifetime; but I hope your affection to your *Mother* will not make you partial to your *Aunt*.

To tell you, Sir, my own opinion: though I cannot find any ancient records of any acts of the *Society of the Ugly Faces*, conſidered in a public capacity; yet in a private one they have certainly antiquity on their ſide. I am perſuaded they will hardly give place to the *Loungers*; and the *Loungers* are of the ſame ſtanding with the univerſity itſelf.

Though we well know, Sir, you want no motives to do juſtice, yet I am commiſſioned to tell you, that you are invited to be admitted *ad eundem* at Cambridge; and I believe I may venture ſafely to deliver this as the wiſh of our whole univerſity.

TO MR. SPECTATOR.

THE HUMBLE PETITION OF WHO AND WHICH.

SHEWETH,

THAT your petitioners, being in a forlorn and deſtitute condition, know not to whom we ſhould apply ourſelves for relief, becauſe there is hardly

hardly any man alive who hath not injured us. Nay, we ſpeak it with ſorrow, even you yourſelf, whom we ſhould ſuſpect of ſuch a practice the laſt of all mankind, can hardly acquit yourſelf of having given us ſome cauſe of complaint. We are deſcended of ancient families, and kept up our dignity and honour many years, till the Jack-ſprat *That* ſupplanted us. How often have we found ourſelves ſlighted by the clergy in their pulpits, and the lawyers at the bar! Nay, how often have we heard in one of the moſt polite and auguſt aſſemblies in the univerſe, to our great mortification, theſe words—'That *That* 'that noble lord urged!' which, if one of us had had juſtice done, would have ſounded nobler thus: 'That *Which* 'that noble lord urged.' Senates themſelves, the guardians of Britiſh liberty, have degraded us, and preferred *That* to us; and yet no decree was ever given againſt us. In the very acts of parliament, in which the utmoſt right ſhould be done to every Body, *Word*, and Thing, we find ourſelves often either not uſed, or uſed one inſtead of another. In the firſt and beſt prayer children are taught, they learn to miſuſe us. 'Our 'Father *Which* art in heaven,' ſhould be—'Our Father *Who* art in Heaven;' and even a *Convocation*, after long debates, refuſed to conſent to an alteration of it. In our general confeſſion we ſay—'Spare thou them, O God, '*Which* confeſs their faults;' which ought to be—'*Who* confeſs their faults.' What hopes then have we of having juſtice done us, when the makers of our very prayers and laws, and the moſt learned in all faculties, ſeem to be in a confederacy againſt us, and our enemies themſelves muſt be our judges.

The Spaniſh proverb ſays—'*El ſabio* '*muda conſejo, el necio no*;' i. e. 'A 'wiſe man changes his mind, a fool 'never will.' So that we think you, Sir, a very proper perſon to addreſs to, ſince we know you to be capable of being convinced, and changing your judgment. You are well able to ſettle this affair, and to you we ſubmit our cauſe. We deſire you to aſſign the butts and bounds of each of us; and that for the future we may both enjoy our own. We would deſire to be heard by our counſel, but that we fear in their very pleadings they would betray our cauſe: beſides, we have been oppreſſed ſo many years, that we can appear no other way, but *in forma pauperis*. All which conſidered, we hope you will be pleaſed to do that which to right and juſtice ſhall appertain.

R And your Petitioners, &c.

N° LXXIX. THURSDAY, MAY 31.

ODERUNT PECCARE BONI VIRTUTIS AMORE.
HOR. EP. I. XVI. 51.

THE GOOD, FOR VIRTUE'S SAKE, ABHOR TO SIN.
CREECH.

I Have received very many letters of late, from my female correſpondents, moſt of whom are very angry with me for abridging their pleaſures, and looking ſeverely upon things in themſelves indifferent. But I think they are extremely unjuſt to me in this imputation; all that I contend for is, that thoſe excellencies, which are to be regarded but in the ſecond place, ſhould not precede more weighty conſiderations. The heart of man deceives him in ſpite of the lectures of half a life ſpent in diſcourſes on the ſubjection of paſſion; and I do not know why one may not think the heart of woman as unfaithful to itſelf. If we grant an equality in the faculties of both ſexes, the minds of women are leſs cultivated with precepts, and conſequently may, without diſreſpect to them, be accounted more liable to illuſion in caſes wherein natural inclination is out of the intereſts of virtue. I ſhall take up my preſent time in commenting upon a billet or two which came from ladies, and from thence leave the reader to judge whether I am in the right or not, in thinking it is poſſible fine women may be miſtaken.

The following addreſs ſeems to have no other deſign in it, but to tell me the writer will do what ſhe pleaſes for all me.

MR.

MR. SPECTATOR,

I Am young, and very much inclined to follow the paths of innocence; but at the ſame time, as I have a plentiful fortune, and am of quality, I am unwilling to reſign the pleaſures of diſtinction, ſome little ſatisfaction in being admired in general, and much greater in being beloved by a gentleman, whom I deſign to make my huſband. But I have a mind to put off entering into matrimony till another winter is over my head, which, whatever, muſty Sir, you may think of the matter, I deſign to paſs away in hearing muſic, going to plays, viſiting, and all other ſatisfactions which fortune and youth, protected by innocence and virtue, can procure for, Sir, your moſt humble ſervant, M. T.

My lover does not know I like him; therefore, having no engagements upon me, I think to ſtay and know whether I may not like any one elſe better.

I have heard Will. Honeycomb ſay—'A woman ſeldom writes her mind but 'in her poſtſcript.' I think this gentlewoman has ſufficiently diſcovered hers in this. I'll lay what wager ſhe pleaſes againſt her preſent favourite, and can tell her that ſhe will like ten more before ſhe is fixed, and then will take the worſt man ſhe ever liked in her life. There is no end of affection taken in at the eyes only; and you may as well ſatisfy thoſe eyes with ſeeing, as control any paſſion received by them only. It is from loving by ſight that coxcombs ſo frequently ſucceed with women, and very often a young lady is beſtowed by her parents to a man who weds her as innocence itſelf, though ſhe has in her own heart, given her approbation of a different man in every aſſembly ſhe was in the whole year before. What is wanting among women, as well as among men, is the love of laudable things, and not to reſt only in the forbearance of ſuch as are reproachful.

How far removed from a woman of this light imagination is Eudoſia! Eudoſia has all the arts of life and good breeding with ſo much eaſe, that the virtue of her conduct looks more like an inſtinct than choice. It is as little difficult to her to think juſtly of perſons and things, as it is to a woman of different accompliſhments to move ill or look aukward. That which was, at firſt, the effect of inſtruction, is grown into an habit; and it would be as hard for Eudoſia to indulge a wrong ſuggeſtion of thought, as it would be for Flavia, the fine dancer, to come into a room with an unbecoming air.

But the miſapprehenſions people themſelves have of their own ſtate of mind, is laid down with much diſcerning in the following letter, which is but an extract of a kind epiſtle from my charming miſtreſs Heccatiſſa, who is above the vanity of external beauty, and is the better judge of the perfections of the mind.

MR. SPECTATOR,

I Write this to acquaint you, that very many ladies as well as myſelf, ſpend many hours more than we uſed at the glaſs, for want of the female library of which you promiſed us a catalogue. I hope, Sir, in the choice of authors for us, you will have a particular regard to books of devotion. What they are, and how many, muſt be your chief care; for upon the propriety of ſuch writings depends a great deal. I have known thoſe among us who think, if they every morning and evening ſpend an hour in their cloſet, and read over ſo many prayers in ſix or ſeven books of devotion, all equally nonſenſical, with a ſort of warmth, that might as well be raiſed by a glaſs of wine, or a dram of citron, they may all the reſt of their time go on in whatever their particular paſſion leads them to. The beauteous Philautia, who is, in your language, an Idol, is one of theſe votaries; ſhe has a very pretty furniſhed cloſet, to which ſhe retires at her appointed hours: this is her dreſſing-room as well as chapel; ſhe has conſtantly before her a large looking-glaſs, and upon the table, according to a very witty author—

Together lie her prayer book and paint,
At once t'improve the ſinner and the ſaint.

It muſt be a good ſcene, if one could be preſent at it, to ſee this Idol by turns lift up her eyes to heaven, and ſteal glances at her own dear perſon. It cannot but be a pleaſing conflict between vanity and humiliation. When you are upon this ſubject, chuſe books which elevate the mind above the world, and give a pleaſing indifference to little things in it. For want of ſuch inſtructions, I

am

am apt to believe ſo many people take it in their herds to be ſullen, croſs, and angry, under pretence of being abſtracted from the affairs of this life, when at the ſame time they betray their fondneſs for them by doing their duty as a taſk, and pouting and reading good books for a week together. Much of this I take to proceed from the indiſcretion of the books themſelves, whoſe very titles of Weekly Preparations, and ſuch limited godlineſs, lead people of ordinary capacities into great errors, and raiſe in them a mechanical religion, intirely diſtinct from morality. I know a lady ſo given up to this ſort of devotion, that though ſhe employs ſix or eight hours of the twenty-four at cards, ſhe never miſſes one conſtant hour of prayer, for which time another holds her cards, to which ſhe returns with no little anxiouſneſs till two or three in the morning. All theſe acts are but empty ſhows, and, as it were, compliments made to virtue; the mind is all the while untouched with any true pleaſure in the purſuit of it. From hence I preſume it ariſes that ſo many people call themſelves virtuous from no other pretence to it but abſence of ill. There is Dulcianara is the moſt inſolent of all creatures to her friends and domeſtics, upon no other pretence in nature but that, as her ſilly phraſe is, no one can ſay black is her eye. She has no ſecrets, forſooth, which ſhould make her afraid to ſpeak her mind, and therefore ſhe is impertinently blunt to all her acquaintance, and unſeaſonably imperious to all her family. Dear Sir, be pleaſed to put ſuch books in our hands, as may make our virtue more inward, and convince ſome of us that in a mind truly virtuous the ſcorn of vice is always accompanied with the pity of it. This and other things are impatiently expected from you by our whole ſex; among the reſt by, Sir, your moſt humble ſervant,

R B. D.

N° LXXX. FRIDAY, JUNE 1.

COELUM NON ANIMUM MUTANT QUI TRANS MARE CURRUNT.
HOR. EP. I. XI. 27.

THOSE THAT BEYOND-SEA GO, WILL SADLY FIND,
THEY CHANGE THEIR CLIMATE ONLY, NOT THEIR MIND. CREECH.

IN the year 1688, and on the ſame day of that year, were born in Cheapſide, London, two females of exquiſite feature and ſhape; the one we ſhall call Brunetta, the other Phillis. A cloſe intimacy between their parents made each of them the firſt acquaintance the other knew in the world: they played, dreſſed babies, acted viſitings, learned to dance and make curtſies, together. They were inſeparable companions in all the little entertainments their tender years were capable of: which innocent happineſs continued till the beginning of their fifteenth year, when it happened that Mrs. Phillis had an head-dreſs on, which became her ſo very well, that inſtead of being beheld any more with pleaſure for their amity to each other, the eyes of the neighbourhood were turned to remark them with compariſon of their beauty. They now no longer enjoyed the eaſe of mind and pleaſing indolence in which they were formerly happy, but all their words and actions were miſinterpreted by each other, and every excellence in their ſpeech and behaviour was looked upon as an act of emulation to ſurpaſs the other. Theſe beginnings of diſinclination ſoon improved into a formality of behaviour, a general coldneſs, and by natural ſteps into an irreconcileable hatred.

Theſe two rivals for the reputation of beauty, were in their ſtature, countenance, and mien, ſo very much alike, that if you were ſpeaking of them in their abſence, the words in which you deſcribed the one muſt give you an idea of the other. They were hardly diſtinguiſhable, you would think, when they were apart, though extremely different when together. What made their enmity the more entertaining to all the reſt of their ſex was, that in detraction from each other neither could fall upon terms which did not hit herſelf as much as her adverſary. Their nights grew reſtleſs with meditation of new dreſſes to outvie each other, and inventing new devices to recal admirers, who obſerved the charms of the one rather than thoſe

of

of the other on the laſt meeting. Their colours failed at each other's appearance, flushed with pleaſure at the report of a diſadvantage, and their countenances withered upon inſtances of applauſe. The decencies to which women are obliged, made theſe virgins ſtifle their reſentment ſo far as not to break into open violences, while they equally ſuffered the torments of a regulated anger. Their mothers, as it is uſual, engaged in the quarrel, and ſupported the ſeveral pretenſions of the daughters with all that ill-choſen ſort of expence which is common with people of plentiful fortunes and mean taſte. The girls preceded their parents like queens of May, in all the gaudy colours imaginable, on every Sunday to church, and were expoſed to the examination of the audience for ſuperiority of beauty.

During this conſtant ſtruggle, it happened, that Phillis one day at public prayers ſmote the heart of a gay Weſt-Indian, who appeared in all the colours which can affect an eye that could not diſtinguiſh between being fine and taudry. This American in a ſummer-iſland ſuit was too ſhining and too gay to be reſiſted by Phillis, and too intent upon her charms to be diverted by any of the laboured attractions of Brunetta. Soon after, Brunetta had the mortification to ſee her rival diſpoſed of in a wealthy marriage, while ſhe was only addreſſed to in a manner that ſhewed ſhe was the admiration of all men, but the choice of none. Phillis was carried to the habitation of her ſpouſe in Barbadoes: Brunetta had the ill-nature to inquire for her by every opportunity, and had the misfortune to hear of her being attended by numerous ſlaves, fanned into ſlumbers by ſucceſſive hands of them, and carried from place to place in all the pomp of barbarous magnificence. Brunetta could not endure theſe repeated advices, but employed all her arts and charms in laying baits for any of condition of the ſame iſland, out of a mere ambition to confront her once more before ſhe died. She at laſt ſucceeded in her deſign, and was taken to wife by a gentleman whoſe eſtate was contiguous to that of her enemy's huſband. It would be endleſs to enumerate the many occaſions on which theſe irreconcileable beauties laboured to excel each other; but in proceſs of time it happened that a ſhip put into the iſland conſigned to a friend of Phillis, who had directions to give her the refuſal of all goods for apparel, before Brunetta could be alarmed of their arrival. He did ſo, and Phillis was dreſſed in a few days in a brocade more gorgeous and coſtly than had ever before appeared in that latitude. Brunetta languiſhed at the ſight, and could by no means come up to the bravery of her antagoniſt. She communicated her anguiſh of mind to a faithful friend, who, by an intereſt in the wife of Phillis's merchant, procured a remnant of the ſame ſilk for Brunetta. Phillis took pains to appear in all public places where ſhe was ſure to meet Brunetta; Brunetta was now prepared for the inſult, and came to a public ball in a plain black ſilk mantua, attended by a beautiful negro girl in a petticoat of the ſame brocade withwhich Phillis was attired. This drew the attention of the whole company, upon which the unhappy Phillis ſwooned away, and was immediately conveyed to her houſe. As ſoon as ſhe came to herſelf, ſhe fled from her huſband's houſe, went on board a ſhip in the road, and is now landed in inconſolable deſpair at Plymouth.

POSTSCRIPT.

After the above melancholy narration, it may perhaps be a relief to the reader to peruſe the following expoſtulation.

TO MR. SPECTATOR.

THE JUST REMONSTRANCE OF AFFRONTED THAT.

THOUGH I deny not the petition of Mr. *Who* and *Which*, yet you ſhould not ſuffer them to be rude and to call honeſt people names: for that bears very hard on ſome of thoſe rules of decency, which you are juſtly famous for eſtabliſhing. They may find fault, and correct ſpeeches in the ſenate and at the bar: but let them try to get themſelves ſo often, and with ſo much eloquence repeated in a ſentence, as a great orator doth frequently introduce me.

'My Lords,' ſays he, 'with humble ſubmiſſion, That that I ſay is this: 'that, That, that that I ſay is this: 'advanced, is not That that he ſhould 'have proved to your lordſhips.' Let thoſe two queſtionary petitioners try to do thus with their Whos and their Whiches.

What

What great advantages was I of to Mr. Dryden in his Indian Emperor,

You force me ſtill to anſwer you in That,

to furniſh out a rhyme to Morat? And what a poor figure would Mr. Bayes have made without his Egad and all That? How can a judicious man diſtinguiſh one thing from another, without ſaying, This here, or That there? And how can a ſober man, without uſing the expletives of oaths, in which indeed the rakes and bullies have a great advantage over others, make a diſcourſe of any tolerable length, without That is; and if he be a very grave man indeed, without That is to ſay? And how inſtructive as well as entertaining are thoſe uſual expreſſions in the mouths of great men, Such things as That, and the like of That.

I am not againſt reforming the corruptions of ſpeech you mention, and own there are proper ſeaſons for the introduction of other words beſides *That*; but I ſcorn as much to ſupply the place of a *Who* or a *Which* at every turn, as they are unequal always to fill mine; and I expect good language and civil treatment, and hope to receive it for the future: That, that I ſhall only add is, that I am, your's,

THAT.

END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.